High court asked to stop top-to-bottom COA revamp

Story on PAGE A2

Why did you pick Poe, Loren asked

BATTLE OF THE BRAINLESS NA ITO!

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

IF IT is true that she considers her closest rival for the vice presidency brainless, why did she choose to be Fernando Poe Jr.'s

WHY/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, February 6, 2004 ★★★ 66 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 60 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Guingona: Military spying on me

By Jerome Aning

VICE President Teofisto "Tito" Guingona Jr. yesterday accused the military of spying on him and called on the Armed Forces to respect his office since it is part of the administration.

When queried about alleged military surveillance on politicians in an inter-

GUINGONA/ A8

Palace clears Nani Perez

Arroyo brothers no-show at Senate

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE RESUMPTION of the Senate inquiry into the Jose Pidal controversy yesterday was notable for its no-shows.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo claimed to be sick. His brother Ignacio, who had claimed that he was in fact Jose Pidal, was reportedly out of the country. Even presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who raised the Pidal scandal in three privilege speeches last year, skipped the inquiry altogether.

Most of the senators were also absent, with only opposition senators Sergio Osmeña III and Edgardo Angara, chairs of the committees on banks and constitutional amendments, respectively attending the hearing along with Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier.

But the two-hour hearing still managed to be controversial after Osmeña accused a police document examiner of lying under oath, and charged that the Philippine National Police was part of a cover-up to protect the First Gentleman.

Osmeña accused Dr. Mely Sorra of lying after she claimed she witnessed Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo sign two sets of handwriting specimens at the PNP Crime Laboratory last September for analysis.

Osmeña made the charge be-

ARROYO/ A20

POLITICS ON THE MENU

FREDDIE MAÑALAC

The men who would be president are the special guests at a dinner hosted by Philippine Star publisher Max Soliven at the Philamlife Towers in Makati City on Thursday night. Raul Roco appears to be giving Fernando Poe Jr. a piece of his mind while Sen. Panfilo Lacson looks on approvingly.

Criminal raps pushed by graft body thrown out

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil Cabacungan

THE PALACE has rejected a recommendation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission that criminal charges be filed against ex-Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Malacañang cleared Perez in a decision signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo on Jan. 30, based on a recommendation by the so-called "committee of peers" to throw out the PAGC recommendation for lack of merit.

The committee was chaired by chief Presidential Legal Counsel Joe Nathan Tenefrancia with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and National Economic and Development Authority Director General Romulo Neri as members.

The disclosure came amid an attempt by the PAGC to deflect criticism that it was dragging its feet in cases against administration officials.

PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar said the presidential unit in fact resolved most of the cases it handled within 60 days, but rued that the commission's recommendations get snagged up in the Palace.

In particular, she mentioned the cases of Perez and ex-Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, which were completed last year.

"We have already submitted

PALACE/ A20

Bro. Eddie: Love child non-issue but . . .

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

FERNANDO Poe Jr., who stirred a controversy with his admission that he has a son by a woman not his wife, may have found an ally in one of his rivals for the presidency: preacher Eddie Villanueva.

Asked to comment on Poe's acknowledgement of his love child with former movie starlet Ana Marin, the leader of the charismatic group Jesus Is Lord Movement yesterday said it should not be used as an issue against the actor's candidacy.

"But it does not mean the one who sinned is qualified," Villanueva quickly added.

"What's important is that those running for public office have genuine, passionate love to serve, not themselves, but the greatest interest of the Filipino people," Villanueva said at the Club Filipino in San Juan, where he and Raul Roco, another presidential candidate, turned up for the signing of the Compact for Peaceful Elections. The event was organized by the Consortium on Electoral Reforms.

"Everyone was born in sin," he added. "What's important is for a person to show genuine enlightenment, genuine renewal, genuine repentance. All of us are given a chance by God to mend our ways."

Poe's running mate Sen. Loren Legarda, who was also at the covenant-signing, continued to defend the actor whose marriage to actress Susan Roces has endured since 1968.

"I admire him; he's very honest," she told reporters. "There are some people who keep such things a secret. Unlike them, he confronts the issue. Besides, who is not tainted? Let he who is with-

BRO. EDDIE/ A20

PINOY IN BAGHDAD

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Originally from Nueva Ecija, S/Sgt. Michael Encabo mans a mobile checkpoint in a Baghdad street on Wednesday. He stops an Iraqi man to inspect his license to carry an AK-47 rifle.

British bank cites bright side to RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

A STANDARD Chartered Bank economist, who prepared the report warning against the Philippines sinking into a foreign debt crisis similar to what befell Argentina, yesterday said the report also pointed out positive developments that would continue to attract foreign investors to the country.

"While the situation has clearly deteriorated over the past two years, there is little to suggest a crisis in the near term," Steve Brice, the bank's chief economist for Southeast Asia, said in the report titled "The Philippines: A tale of two pesos revisited."

The report considered a worst-case scenario in which a debt crisis will break out over the next five years if the new government "loses the faith of foreign investors through irresponsible policies."

Even Governor Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas acknowledged that fiscal and debt crises could erupt in two to three years if the government "does not address our revenue problems."

"We need new taxes and to improve our tax collection. We also have to eliminate smuggling. All of these require political will which hopefully will come with a new mandate to whoever is elected as president," Buenaventura said the other day.

In an e-mail sent to Simon Morris, chief executive officer of SCB Philippines, Brice stressed the opportunities in the country.

"As highlighted in the study, the economy is expected to strengthen further into 2004 on

BRITISH/ A10

THE WIFE of Jaybe Ofrasio, who is suspected of helping fund Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists, leaves a Belfast court after her husband's appearance.

REUTERS

Filipino accused of aiding JI haled before UK court

A FILIPINO from Cotabato City entered no plea in a court in Northern Ireland Wednesday to two counts of making funds and property available over the Internet last year to a terrorist group linked to al-Qaida.

Jaybe Ofrasio, 31, a cleaner and catering assistant in Belfast, was arrested last week following an international police operation which stretched as far as Australia and the Philippines, as well as Northern Ireland, the court heard.

Ofrasio's wife, Indira Abdullah, a nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, had also been

FILIPINO/ A10

Gov't sets aside ₱250M to keep RP safe from bird flu

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday designated Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit head of a high-level crisis committee that would oversee a multi-agency campaign to keep the country safe from the bird flu epidemic wreaking havoc across Asia.

Ms Macapagal announced at a news conference that she was setting aside P250 million for the campaign, which would focus on setting up tighter quarantine controls and monitoring of people and poultry that may be carrying the deadly virus.

The launching of the campaign followed a warning by the World Health Organization that no place in Asia is safe from the virus, which has ravaged poultry farms in 10 Asian countries and has killed at least 17 people in Vietnam and Thailand.

The Philippines has reported no cases of bird flu due to its relative geographic isolation and the government's ban on poultry imports from infected countries.

Even so, Ms Macapagal warned "the Philippines is in danger of similarly being affected unless preemptive, active and immediate steps are taken."

She later issued an executive order providing funding for the campaign and directing 10 departments to help thwart the entry of bird flu into the country. Aside from the Office of the Press Secretary, also involved in the drive are the Departments of Health, Agriculture, Interior and Local Governments, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Communications, Finance, Education, Labor and Employment, and Defense.

Even so, Ms Macapagal said Dayrit would be solely responsible for leading

GOV'T/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

SC asked to stop COA revamp

By Jerry Esplanada

THREE former chairs of the Commission on Audit have asked the Supreme Court to stop the top-to-bottom revamp of the agency ordered by COA chair Guillermo Carague.

Former COA chairs Eufemio Domingo, Celso Gangan and Pascasio Banaria were joined by four other former commissioners in their petition which assailed Carague for ordering a COA "restructuring plan" without the approval of Congress.

"In the absence of such legislative authorization, COA cannot of its own sole will undertake a massive restructuring of its bureaucratic setup," they told the high tribunal.

The case is a "first in the history of COA and the Philippine bureaucracy," said Domingo.

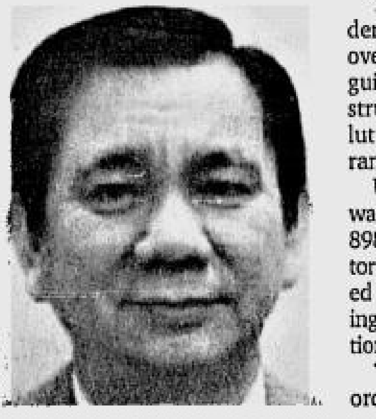
The high court has asked Carague to comment on the petition within 10 days upon receipt of the court notice.

Domingo said they were questioning the ongoing reorganization "because it is not only unconstitutional and illegal, it is also impractical and unnecessary."

He said none of the petitioners stood to benefit if the suit succeeds.

The other petitioners are former commissioners Sofronio Ursal, Alberto Cruz, Bartolome Fernandez and Hermogenes Pobre, who recently retired as chair of the Professional Regulations Commission; and state auditors Maria Matib, Rachel Pacpaco, Angelo Sanchez, Milagros Sy, Aida Toledo and Sherwin Sipi-an.

Their counsel is former justice secretary and solicitor general Sedfrey Ordoñez, who is also a former chair of the Commission on Human Rights and ambassador to the United Nations.


CARAGUE

According to the petitioners, when Carague took over the COA in 2001, he "apparently did not like what he saw in COA's organizational structure."

"It seems that his orientation as a private accountant [Carague was a partner in the Sycip, Gores, Velayo audit firm] got the better of him and largely influenced his thinking about the matter," they said in a briefing paper.

They claimed that Carague ordered on May 17, 2002 a massive overhaul of the COA "under the guise of an organizational restructuring" through COA Resolution No. 2002-005 and Memorandum No. 2002-053.

Up until then, the COA's structure was dictated by Presidential Decree 898 issued in 1976 by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos which provided for the commission's restructuring and authorizing its reorganization within one year.

The petitioners said Carague ordered the restructuring "without the benefit of a legislative imprimatur in the form of an enabling law."

"On top of its sheer lack of legal basis, the COA organizational restructuring collides with and is antagonistic to existing relevant provisions of Presidential Decree 1445 and Executive Order 292 which established the commission's central and regional offices and other auditing units nationwide," Domingo said.

He said before filing the petition, the group conducted extensive interviews with senior COA officials and middle-level employees "to determine how the reorganization was affecting them, their jobs and even their economic situation."

Consensus

"Many of them volunteered information and also signified their willingness to join any legal action questioning the reorganization," Domingo said.

In September 2002, the petitioners prepared a paper, titled "Consensus of retired COA chairmen and commissioners on the organizational restructuring of COA."

They sent a copy of the document to Carague's office but they said the COA chief never bothered to acknowledge the report.

Instead, they learned that senior COA officials had called meetings where the issues raised in the paper were "summarily dismissed by merely citing a rider provision in the General Appropriations Act of 2001 as the legal basis and authority for the wholesale restructuring."

The petitioners said the GAA provision "hardly qualifies as an enabling law that is necessary to authorize a restructuring or reorganization of an agency."

The GAA is an appropriation law that allocates funds from the National Treasury for the financial operations of the government during a fiscal period, they said.

"The GAA in question is sketchy, devoid as it is of the ingredients peculiar to a special enabling law that authorizes the restructuring of a government agency," they pointed out.

Domingo said that "an unsigned letter addressed to us was circulated, casting aspersion on the personalities of the authors of the paper, and even questioning their legal and professional competence."

They said Carague's failure to confront the issue has caused polarization and divisions among the COA personnel adversely affected by the restructuring.

JVC
CYBERCAM
BEST SHOT OFFER

BUY THIS JVC SUPER VHS CAMCORDER AND AVAIL OF THE BIG DISCOUNT ON THIS JVC 3 IN I DIGITAL STILL CAMERA :

GR-SXM750
COMPACT SUPER VHS CAMCORDER
3.5" LCD MONITOR ■ 600X DIGITAL HYPER ZOOM ■ ENDURANCE SHOOTING ■ BUILT IN AUTO LIGHT ■ SUPER HIGH BAND PROCESSOR PICTURE STABILIZER ■ 70 COMBINATIONS OF DIGITAL EFFECTS AND SCENE TRANSITION ANIMATION AND TIMELAPSE
VIDEO ACCESSORIES INCLUDED

GC-A50
DIGITAL CAMERA
DIGITAL STILL CAMERA
WEB CAM
VIDEO CLIP
Dimensions (WxHxD) 60x48x20 mm

REGULAR PRICE: P7,990

PAY ONLY P1,000 SAVE P 6,990

Promo period : FEB. 6 to March 6, 2004

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE

Distributed & Serviced by: JVC (PHILIPPINES), INC.
2nd Flr., Jacinta Bldg. 2, EDSA, Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tels 8822501 (Connecting all Depts.) Service Dept. Hotline: 8822509 8822510

JVC The Perfect Experience

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0245 SERIES OF 2004

Solon, others waive right to Marcos money

By Cynthia D. Balana

PARTY-LIST Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) and other prominent human rights victims of the martial law regime are waiving their claims to compensation under the Human Rights Compensation Act of 2004 which was approved by the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, which steered the passage of the measure, said some victims have agreed to donate their share to fellow victims and worthy causes, once the measure has been signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The counterpart compensation measure in the Senate was scheduled to be discussed yesterday.

Congress adjourned yesterday for the election period. If the Senate failed to act on the measure, it would have to wait until after the May elections when sessions resume to do so, Rosales said.

The House version of the proposed law allocates P8 billion as state compensation to some 9,000 victims of human rights violations during martial law. The money will come from the $684 million in assets recovered from the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos which was ruled as ill-gotten wealth by the Supreme Court.

When enacted into law, the compensation bill will amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law under which all recovered Marcos wealth was to go to the government's agrarian reform program.

ROSALES

The compensation to be received by each victim under the new law will be tax-free. If the victim has died, the spouse, children or parents, in that order, will receive the money.

Rosales said many human rights victims had discussed the waiver issue as early as 1995.

She said that among those who have expressed willingness to waive their right to compensation were Behn Cervantes, Joel Lamangan, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Ed de la Torre, Horacio "Boy" Morales and the wife of Primitivo Mijares, a newspaper columnist and one-time Marcos supporter who disappeared during martial law.

Rosales said she was thinking of donating her share to the First Quarter Storm Foundation, of which she is the chairperson. The foundation takes care of student-activists from poor families who were victims of martial law atrocities.

Bro. Eddie undaunted

By Margaux Ortiz

PRESIDENTIAL candidate and Jesus Is Lord head Brother Eddie Villanueva remains unfazed despite lagging behind in recent surveys.

Speaking before 400 businessmen at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City the other night, Villanueva said surveys are "designed to create undemocratic perceptions of the presidential candidates."

"I don't believe in surveys," he said. "Although there are some surveys which give sound conclusions, most of them should not be taken seriously."

Villanueva believes that surveys could not possibly reflect the real choices of 40 million voters nationwide. Poll groups favor their "subscribers"—candidates who pay millions of pesos in exchange for positive results.

"I learned that presidential candidates pay P1 million pesos as tuition fee while vice presidentiables pay P500,000 each," Villanueva said.

The leader of the JIL Church, which claims to be the fourth largest independent church in the world, hopes to win in the 2004 elections by banking on the innate goodness of the Filipino people. He believes the "silent majority" will be enlightened during the three-month election period.

"I have absolute trust in our people," he said. "I believe they will do what (former) Cardinal (Jaime) Sin advised: to choose the righteous leader and not their idols or those who buy their votes."

Villanueva stressed that he would make an effective president because he is not beholden to any interest group. " I fear no one except God and sin," he said.

He also promised to go back to his "first love"—evangelizing and leading his flock of believers—after six years in office.

Non-PMA police officers to defy Ebdane, will back Ping

By Christian V. Esguerra

A GROUP of Philippine National Police officials has defied Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s strict directive against practicing partisan politics in the ranks.

The group, composed of non-Philippine Military Academy graduates in the PNP, has been meeting twice a month during which members reportedly express their support for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's presidential bid.

About "30 percent" of the group is backing the other opposition standard-bearer, Fernando Poe Jr., while the rest are solidly behind Lacson who is a former PNP chief, a senior police official told the INQUIRER yesterday in an interview.

The source, however, said the officers would never publicly state their support for Lacson, knowing this is a clear violation of the PNP policy of staying apolitical.

"We're backing him simply because we know that only he would place non-PMAyers on equal footing with PMA graduates in the police organization," the source, a police general, said. He noted that non-PMAyers comprised some 9,000 of the PNP officer corps.

When Lacson was PNP chief during the Estrada administration, the source said he promoted at least 20 non-PMAyers to the rank of one-star general or chief superintendent.

It was, he said, solid proof that Lacson gave equal chances to all PNP officers even when the senator himself was a member of PMA Class '71.

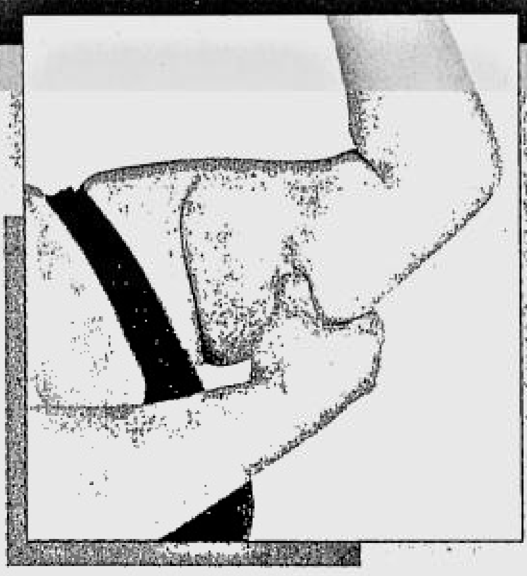
In contrast, the source said, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ignored the non-PMAyers' appeals to be named to positions on the basis of competence instead of their political affiliations.

Among the "Lacson boys" in the PNP who are on "floating status" are Directors Lucas Managuelod, Reynaldo Acop and Victor Batac. Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, Lacson's co-accused in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, is assigned to the obscure "special oversight committee" that was formed to suggest reforms in the PNP.

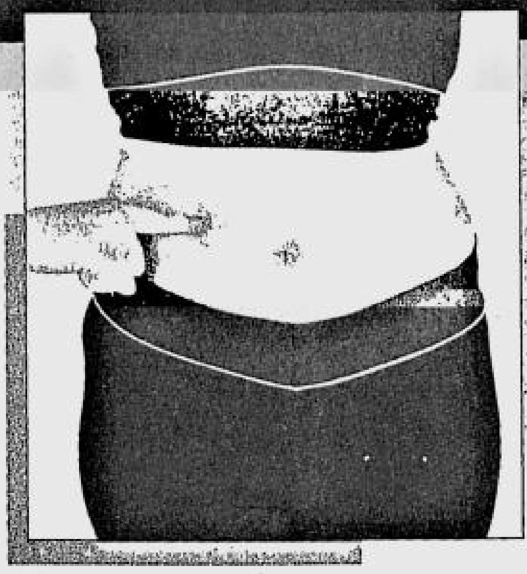
ALWAYS REFRESHING
WATER DISPENSER
SILVER-ION DEODORIZER SYSTEM
3-door ref
2-door ref
1-door ref
HITACHI
Inspire the Next

For inquiries, call the Hitachi hotline (02) 7416200

✓ Check Your Body for Fat & Flab



☐ Pinch your sagging arms



☐ Poke your flabby tummy

☐ Squeeze your bulging thighs

Can you feel the excess fat when you do this? Slim down at **Marie-France** and you'll soon feel smooth, shapely curves instead of bulges. Melt away inches of fat, firm up sagging flab and reduce ugly cellulite. Get effective slimming results with absolutely no risk to your health.

No more pinching, poking and squeezing of flab. Get sexier curves at Marie-France! Call us today.

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International®

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	TIMOG	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1262	687-1216	372-6635	242-2199	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
815-2052	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639

NOW OPEN Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm · Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm · www.mariefrance.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Hurry up and decide, Poe's lawyers tell Comelec

By Martin P. Marfil

LAWYERS of actor Fernando Poe Jr. have asked the Commission on Elections to quickly resolve the disqualification case against their client, saying it had "planted a seed of doubt" in the minds of voters.

In a 16-page memorandum filed by lawyers Estelito Mendoza and Sixto Brillantes on Wednesday, the Poe camp said the longer the Comelec sits on the petition, the more likely the country will suffer from political uncertainty.

"A prompt resolution (of the case) ... will stop the assault on the people's right to vote for, and elect, the President of their choice and the unfair enhancement of the candidacy of the other candidates," Mendoza said.

"We are praying that the Comelec dismiss the motion for reconsideration filed by Attorney Fornier considering that he did not present any new argument of evidence and has utterly failed to refute the facts we presented," Mendoza added.

On Jan. 29, lawyer Andresito Fornier filed a motion for reconsideration after his petition to disqualify Poe, was dismissed on Jan. 23 by the Comelec, which upheld Poe's right to run for president.

Fornier, in his 60-page memorandum, had argued that the commission's first division failed to appreciate all the evidence presented by the parties and that the evidence of the Poe camp controverted the declaration of Poe that he is a natural-born citizen.

He noted that Poe's camp had submitted evidence showing their client was born in 1939 but that his parents were married in 1940. This made Poe an illegitimate child and should, therefore, have followed the nationality of his American mother, Bessie Kelley.

In the memorandum, Fornier also maintained that the Comelec was the proper forum to declare whether Poe was a natural-born citizen.

The Comelec's first division had earlier ruled that it had no jurisdiction over Poe's citizenship, saying that it could only decide whether Poe committed "material misrepresentation" in his certificate of candidacy.

Fearing that the Comelec might wait for the action of the Supreme Court before resolving the matter, Poe's lawyers said the petitions filed with the Supreme Court are different from the petition before the Comelec.

The petitions before the Supreme Court were based on Article VII of Section 4, paragraph 7 of the Constitution which states that "the Supreme Court, sitting en banc, shall be the sole judge of all contests relating to the elections, returns and qualifications of the President or Vice President."

The petition before the Comelec, they said, was based on Section 78 of the Omnibus Election Law which gives the commission the power to deny due course or to cancel certificates of candidacy.

"Rather than waiting for the Supreme Court's resolution of the ... petitions, this honorable commission should resolve petitioner's motion for reconsideration with dispatch," Poe's lawyers said.

GMA in no rush to name new poll commissioners

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would not be rushed into appointing new commissioners to the Commission on Elections.

"Well, of course they (vacancies) should be filled with more deliberation than less," the President said.

While the campaign period for the May national elections begins Tuesday, Ms Macapagal said she has not set a time limit for filling the vacancies created by the retirement of Commissioners Ralph Lantion and Luzviminda Tancangco on Feb. 2.

"None yet; but I'm not at liberty to say who the nominees are. I said there are many nominees but I have not made my pick," Ms Macapagal said at a press conference at the Presidential Security Group park.

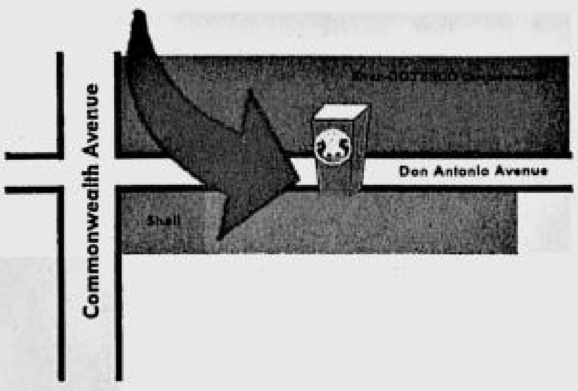
The President also rejected calls by the opposition to appoint commissioners who were not pro-administration.

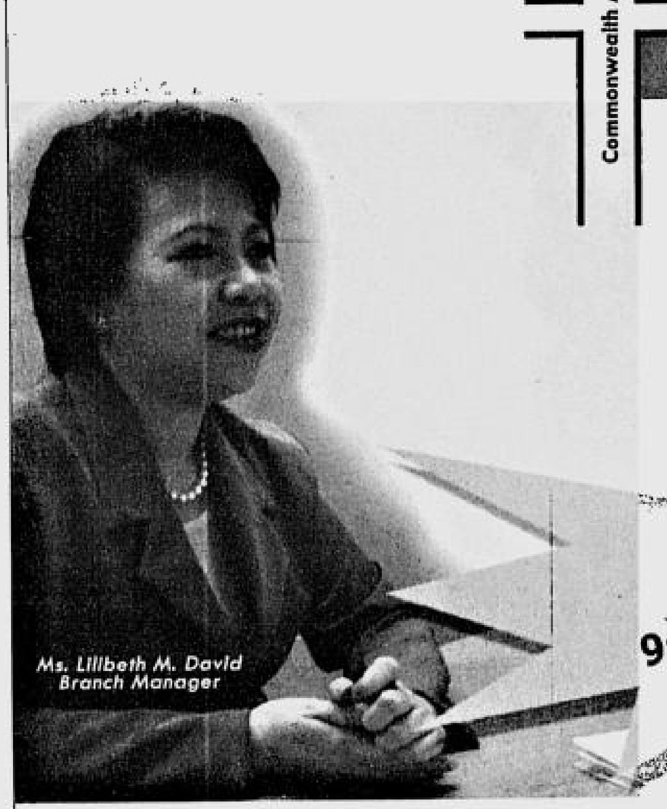
"I have to look at the individual qualifications. We're not into the quota system," she said.

The retirement of Lantion and Tancangco reduced to five the number of Comelec commissioners, including chair Benjamin Abalos, at a time the poll body is being buffeted by controversy over the recently voided automation contract and the subsequent return to manual counting in the polls that are three months away.

MANILABANK is now at...

Don Antonio Avenue
Quezon City





with
Saturday Banking
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

G/F Royale Place, Don Antonio Avenue, Brgy. Old Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 932-9477 ; 952-9354

a proud member of
BancNet
Non-Stop Banking Network

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Deposits insured up to P100,000.00.

PANG ISKOLAR BA ANG GALING MO?

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
In constant redefinition of academic life

Now in its 19th year
The Pres. ELPIDIO QUIRINO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

₱9.5 MILLION WORTH OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ANY FOUR OR FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OFFERED AT THE TIP

Bonafide public or private high school graduates with 85% or above general average or final grade in Math IV, Science IV, or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

Presidential Scholar (1st Placer)* - Outlay of ₱100,000.00 to cover fifty (50) monthly stipends of ₱2,000.00 per month through five (5) school years for board and lodging, books, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses, plus an outlay of ₱154,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the course in any of the five or four-year programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱254,000.00

2nd to 61st Placers* - Outlay of ₱154,000 for each of sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the course in any of the five or four-year programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP.......₱9,240,000.00

TOTAL.......₱9,494,000.00

Now in its 8th year
The Gov. DEMETRIO QUIRINO, Sr. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

₱6.8 MILLION WORTH OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM AT TIP MANILA

Bonafide public or private high school graduates with 83% or above general average or final grade in Math IV, Science IV or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

1st Placer*- Outlay of ₱60,000.00 to cover forty (40) monthly stipends of ₱1,500.00 per month through four (4) school years for board and lodging, books, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses, plus an outlay of ₱113,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Accountancy program at TIP Manila.......₱173,000.00

2nd to 51st Placers* - Outlay of ₱113,000 for each of fifty (50) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Accountancy program at TIP Manila.......₱5,650,000.00

52nd to 131st Placers** - Outlay of ₱12,250 for each of eighty (80) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees for ONE (1) semester in Accountancy at TIP Manila....₱980,000.00

TOTAL.......₱6,803,000.00

Now in its 29th year
The Sec. GUILLERMO DE VEGA SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

₱7.1 MILLION WORTH OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ARCHITECTURE OR ENGINEERING PROGRAMS AT THE TIP

Bonafide public or private high school graduates with 80% or above general average or final grade in Math IV, Science IV or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

1st Placer*- Outlay of ₱50,000.00 to cover fifty (50) monthly stipends of ₱1,000.00 per month through five (5) school years, plus an outlay of ₱154,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Architecture program or in any of the five or four-year Engineering programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP.......₱204,000.00

2nd to 41st Placers* - Outlay of ₱154,000 for each of forty (40) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the course in any of the five or four-year programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱ 6,160,000.00

42nd to 101st Placers** - Outlay of ₱12,250 for each of sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees for ONE (1) semester in any of the five or four-year programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱735,000.00

TOTAL.......₱7,099,000.00

* Effective school year 2004-2005, the scholar loses his scholarship if he fails to obtain a General Weighted Average (GWA) of 2.00 every semester during the period of his scholarship, or if he commits any infraction of the General Rules of Conduct and Discipline.

** The scholar may retain his scholarship in the succeeding semester subject to the Rules and Regulations on Resident Scholarships and Grants.

WHERE TO FILE YOUR APPLICATION ------ Office of the Registrar
TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City

REQUIREMENTS ------ Form 138
2 Copies 2 x 2 ID Picture

	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS	SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS
PRES. ELPIDIO QUIRINO	Friday, April 16, 2004	Saturday, April 17, 2004
GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO, SR.	Friday, April 23, 2004	Saturday, April 24, 2004
SEC. GUILLERMO DE VEGA	Thursday, April 29, 2004	Friday, April 30, 2004

TIME OF EXAMINATIONS ------ 9:00 - 11:00 AM

PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS ------ TIP Manila and TIP Quezon City

OTHER ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTS

	CATEGORY	GRANTS	PERIOD COVERED
1.	HONOR STUDENTS		
1.1	Valedictorian	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	2 Semesters
		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	2 Semesters
1.2	Salutatorian	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	2 Semesters
		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	1 Semester
1.3	3rd-10th Ranking High School Graduate	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.	OTHER DISCOUNTS BASED ON GENERAL AVERAGE IN 4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL OR FINAL GRADE IN MATH IV, ENGLISH IV, OR SCIENCE IV		
2.1	90% or above	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.2	85% - 89%	Free Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.3	83% - 84%	80% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.4	81% - 82%	60% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.5	80%	50% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester

•**MANILA CAMPUSES** 363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila Tels. 733-9117 / 734-3642 1338 Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila • **QUEZON CITY CAMPUS** 938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City Tels. 911-0140 / 912-1573

www.tip.edu.ph

GMA, FPJ, Ping snub covenant signing

TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, actor Fernando Poe Jr. and opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday snubbed a covenant-signing event aimed at ensuring violence-free elections.

The three presidential candidates sent their representatives to sign the covenant at the historic Club Filipino in San Juan, drawing snipes from rival candidate Raul Roco who said that one's duty to peaceful elections could not be delegated.

Apart from Roco, preacher Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus Is Lord Movement showed up at the affair, which also coincided with the launch of the all-party Compact for Peaceful Elections (Compact), a group that will monitor poll-related violence.

"In a sense, we are disappointed ... we failed to get the personal commitment (of some of the candidates)," said Ramon C. Casiple, chair of the Consortium on Electoral Reforms (CER), lead convenor of the event and Compact.

The group had sent invitations to the presidential candidates and their own coalitions. Of the candidates, Ms Macapagal and Poe had problems synchronizing their schedules with the event, the organizers said.

Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party, which is part of Ms Macapagal's coalition, read a statement on behalf of the President. He later explained that her absence was due to "pressing engagements."

Poe, who was in Cebu, sent Sen. Loren Legarda, his running mate, to sign the covenant on his and the coalition's behalf. Lacson, who had to attend a Senate hearing, sent Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino as his representative.

The sixth presidential candidate, businessman Eddie Gil, was also a no-show.

Despite the absence of some candidates "we're glad that as a coalition, they all made commitments. And that the President and Fernando Poe Jr. adhered to the covenant," Casiple said.

Roco, standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa, did not pass up the chance to carp at the other candidates' failure to attend the event. "I could have asked Hermie Aquino (to come here). He could have signed for me. But in matters of trust and fiduciary duty, it's a personal commitment," he said in his speech.

"And so I come to sign. Let those who are not here explain if personal commitment to fiduciary duty is something they will comply with. Because I hear it said that there will be electoral cheating, (then) it must come from somebody who is not here," he said.

Roco later told reporters that a candidate's commitment to peaceful elections was personal, and hence, could not be delegated to somebody else. "But if only to prove that we are committed to supporting and defending the Constitution, we are here. We hope the same commitment can be shown even by those who are not here," he said.

Also present at the event were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Akbayan party-list representatives Etta Rosales and Mario Agujo, senatorial candidates Alfredo Lim and Amina Rasul-Bernardo, as well as Comelec officials.

In a statement read by Abad, Ms Macapagal urged the people "to unite behind honest, orderly and peaceful elections in May and not belabor these controversial scenarios of postponement or delays."

PEACEFUL ELECTION

PRESIDENTIAL candidates Raul Roco and Eddie Villanueva during the covenant signing at the Club Filipino in San Juan. JOAN BONDOC

Villanueva called for vigilance among the citizenry come election day, saying "What's at stake here is not survival, but a great chance to survive (the crises besetting the country)."

Casiple said that the CER conceived the Compact for Peaceful Elections in light of the coup rumors, reported violence in the countryside, and the rebels' collection of permit to campaign fees. The Compact would establish local coalitions, especially in "hot spots," and involve foreign and local monitors, NGOs, civic organizations, and the media in reporting election-related violence.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, February 6, 2004
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Sir 47:2-11
Gospel:	Mk 6:14-29

King Herod also heard about Jesus because his name had become well-known. Some people said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others thought, "He is Elijah," and others, "He is a prophet like the prophets of times past." When Herod was told of this, he thought: "I had John beheaded, yet he has risen from the dead!"

For this is what had happened. Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very disturbed whenever he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday, when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. On that occasion the daughter of Herodias came in and danced; and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to say with many oaths, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

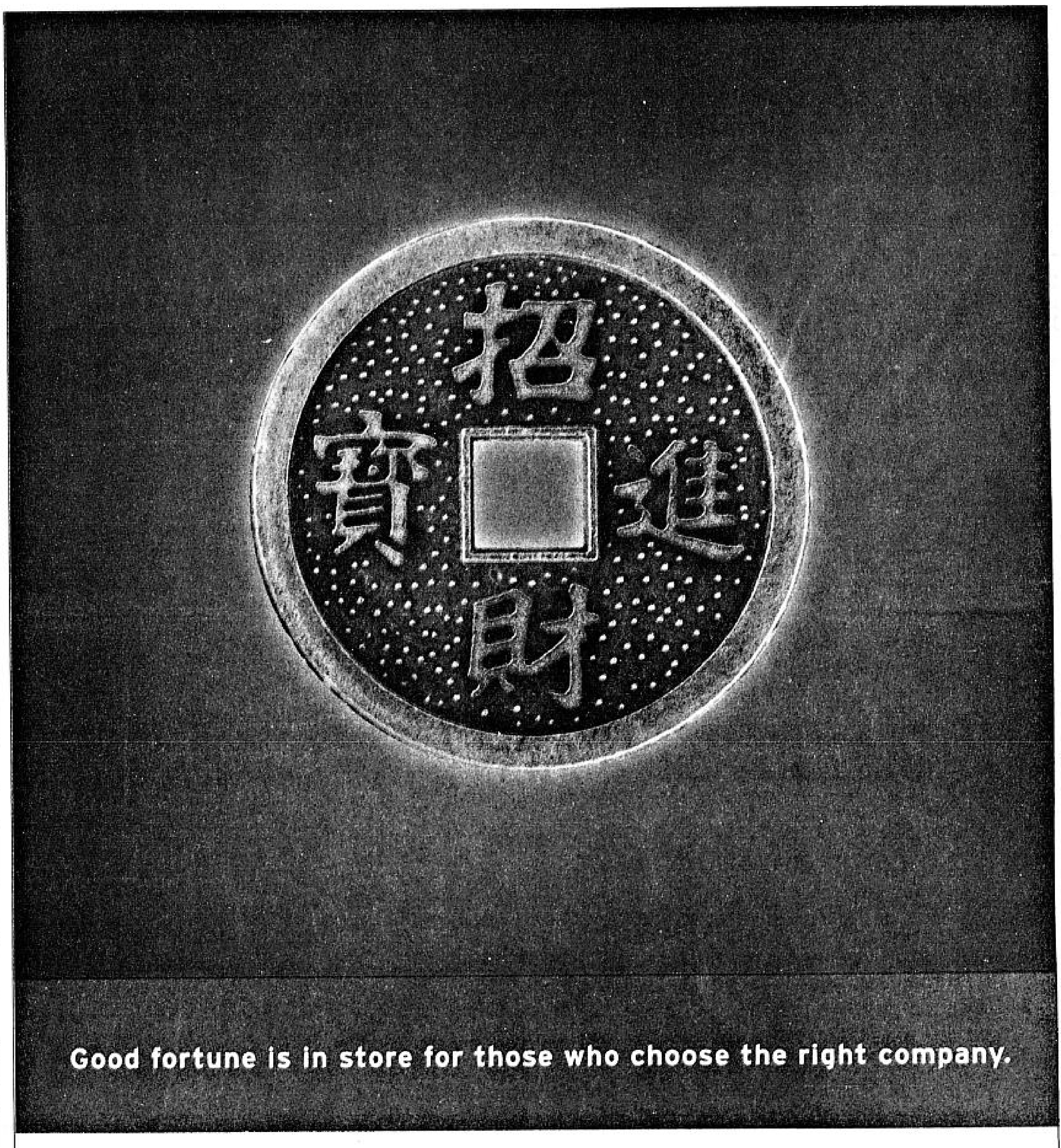
Commentary

"I had John beheaded, yet he has risen from the dead!" Don't be surprised; he has inevitably risen! If you want the truth to sprout, cut off its head! It will grow twenty heads. This was Herod's experience. However, because of his misdeed and his guilty conscience it was not a pleasant one for him. John was his evil conscience. John rose up again before him like a ghost, not like a resurrected being. He cannot be beheaded again; it is impossible to behead a ghost. That phantom pain will be with Herod for the rest of his life. But wasn't there forgiveness for him? Yes, but he was a tyrant and didn't know that word.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—The essence of treachery is the sudden and unexpected attack by an aggressor without the slightest provocation on the part of the victim, thus depriving the latter of any real chance to put up a defense, and thereby ensuring the commission of the attack without risk to the aggressor. Treachery requires the concurrence of two conditions: (1) the employment of a means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity for self-defense or retaliation; and (2) the deliberate and conscious adoption of the means of execution. There is no treachery when the assault is preceded by a heated exchange of words between the accused and the victim; or when the victim is aware of the hostility of the assailant towards the former. In the instant case, the verbal and physical squabble prior to the attack proves that there was no treachery, and that the victim was aware of the imminent danger to his life. Moreover, the prosecution failed to establish that appellant had deliberately adopted a treacherous mode of attack for the purpose of depriving the victim of a chance to fight or retreat. Certainly, the victim knew that his scuffle with appellant could eventually turn into a violent physical clash. The existence of a struggle before the fatal blows were inflicted on the victim clearly shows that he was forewarned of the impending attack, and that he was afforded the opportunity to put up a defense. Indeed, a killing done at the spur of the moment is not treacherous. Moreover, any doubt as to the existence of treachery must be resolved in favor of the accused. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Panganiban, People vs Escarlos, G. R. No. 148912, September 10, 2003] BY R. B. VERA



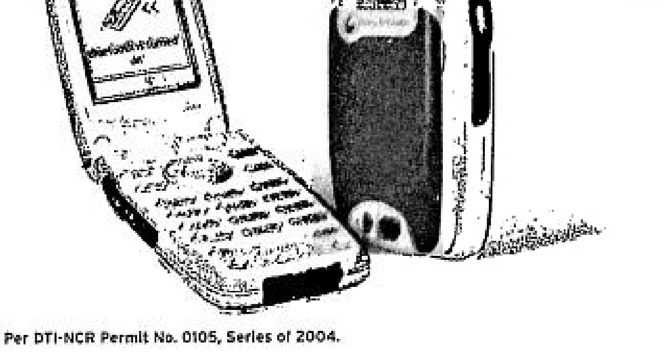
Good fortune is in store for those who choose the right company.

If you seek financial enlightenment, find the perfect guide at Citibank. Our team of highly qualified Relationship Managers is well-equipped to chart the plan best suited to your investment needs. With professional support and our global array of services, you can make better financial decisions.

Schedule a financial check-up with us and let us set out to achieve your goals. With Citibank on your side, you are sure to have a prosperous New Year.

Thinking ahead for your investments.

Sony Ericsson Z600.
Free for an initial investment of US$80,000.
Promo runs until March 31, 2004.
See direct mailers for details.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0105, Series of 2004.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC).
Deposits insured up to P100,000.

A member of citigroup

Call 813-9128 (Metro Manila) or 234-9088 (Metro Cebu)
to schedule your FREE financial check-up.

citibank

FPJ plays cat-and-mouse with Cebu City reporters

By J. Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—True to recent form, Fernando Poe Jr. played cat-and-mouse with local reporters yesterday during his first visit to this city as a presidential aspirant.

Poe, standard-bearer of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), kept reporters waiting at the Grand Convention Center while he met with members of the local opposition party Kugi Uswag Sugbo (Kusog).

The reporters, who were waiting outside the function room, saw their chance to interview the actor when Poe slipped out to go to the restroom.

They followed Poe and cornered him near the restroom door. One reporter managed to shoot a question about President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that Cebu was her bailiwick.

Poe, however, asked the reporters to excuse him because he had to use the toilet. He came out three minutes later, but to the reporters' disappointment, only gave a standard reply to the question.

"Well, hopefully, *kung* bailiwick *nila ito, makakuha lang ako ng konti rito* okay na (If this is their bailiwick, a few votes here will be okay with me)," he said.

Then a man who appeared to be an aide of the actor's told the reporters: "Thank you," which they took as a signal to end the interview.

Poe then returned to the function room. After a few minutes, he and his group left.

They did not go through the front door because there were reporters waiting for Poe there, but exited through a side door instead.

Poe, his spokesperson Sen. Vicente Sotto, actor Eddie Garcia and other KNP members flew to this city from Davao City on Wednesday night aboard a private plane. They were billeted at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel.

At 11 a.m. Thursday, Poe met with the ambassadors of Germany, France and Korea at the hotel.

Norberto Homecillo, KNP Central Visayas chair, said Poe assured the ambassadors he was sincere about his presidential bid and would do his best as president.

But when the ambassadors asked for his platform, Poe reportedly replied, "It will come later during the campaign."

At noon, Poe had the meeting with the Kusog members led by former Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, who is running again for mayor.

The reporters were told to wait outside the function room, except the reporters from the Garcia-owned Sun-Star Cebu newspaper, who were not allowed to interview Poe either.

From the Grand Convention, Poe went to see Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal to greet him ahead of his 73rd birthday today.

Again, the reporters cornered the actor. "I asked for the cardinal's blessing," Poe told them. ***With Bernadette Parco, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Meralco rate cut temporary —Enrile

CONSUMERS should not yet celebrate the 22-centavo reduction in the generation charge of Meralco because this may just be temporary and good only for this quarter.

This was the warning of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on Wednesday who said this reduction was being given only because Meralco had overcharged its customers in the previous periods.

"Consumers must be wary because Meralco's announcements of rate reduction tend to be temporary and their rate increases tend to be permanent," said Enrile in a press statement.

Meralco had announced that it would reduce its generation charge from the current P3.40 to P33.18 per kilowatt-hour.

Enrile said that while the reduction was a step in the right direction, it only confirmed that Meralco had been overcharging consumers.

He said Meralco's generation charge of P3.40 is the average of the P22.25 that it pays government owned Napocor for 60 percent of its requirements and the P5.10 it pays to the Lopez-owned independent power producers First Gas and Quezon Power for 40 percent of its power supply.

The quarterly rate adjustment represents the new method called Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism or GRAM which replaced the controversial Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) which was an automatic monthly adjustment.

STORAGE RACKING SYSTEM
Space-saving, easy to assemble and cost less than wood.
SLOTTED ANGLE BARS
Heavy-Duty Multi-Purpose Racking System
Customized To Your Needs
PALLET RACKING SYSTEM
Your best guard against flood!
JUSTIC CORPORATION
No. 99 Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 241-5237 • 242-2048 to 49 • 313-0773

EVERLITE
MIRRORIZED ELECTRONIC FIXTURES
The Durable Light That Lightens Your Electric Bill
• NO MORE BALLASTS!
• NO MORE STARTERS!
• LIGHTS BRIGHTER
• LASTS LONGER!
• USES ONLY HI-TECH IC'S
ICC QUALITY MARK
SAVE UP TO 40% ON YOUR LIGHTING BILL
ENCLOSED ELECTRONIC SPRING LOADED HOLDER MECHANISM FOR SAFETY AND DURABILITY
MIRRORIZED REFLECTOR BASE
ECONOMY TYPE
BOX TYPE
INDUSTRIAL TYPE
DELUXE TYPE
LOUVER TYPE
• AVAILABLE IN 1 X 10W, 1 X 20W, 1 X 40W, 2 X 20W, 2 X 40W (110 ~ 240V)
• AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING HARDWARE & ELECTRICAL STORES NATIONWIDE
• VERY AFFORDABLE PRICES
• ALL PARTS ARE AVAILABLE
• GUARANTEED TO LAST LONGER
GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
Exclusively Distributed by :
QUINTA COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL INC.
874-A/B Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila
Tels. : 735-9734 • 735-9735 • 735-9750
365-3059 • 365-3061 • Telefax : 735-9720
email : qci@pacific.net.ph

INSTANT
CASH FOR YOUR DIAMONDS & JEWELRIES
BUY, SELL OR PAWN
(Highest Appraisal)
By U.S. Trained Gemologists
LEGRAND
PAWNSHOP & JEWELRY
35/37 Level-A Shoppesville Arcade,
Greenhills Shopping Centre,
San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 721-8797 • 722-5707 • 721-7577
Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm

LIMITED STOCK
LOWEST PRICE
HAND PALLET TRUCK
₱9,999.99
2.5 TON or 3 TON
GOOD QUALITY
POWERMAN HARDWARE
528 T. ALONSO ST., STA. CRUZ MANILA • 733-3711 • 736-9554
ALSO AVAILABLE AT
CALTEX STATION • APO ST., QUEZON CITY • NEAR ROTONDA
TEL. No. 731-0011, • 731-0022 • 740-5416

No Income Tax for Small Businesses! New Law
Change Your Life & Start Your Business in 2004
No Money? No Job? Retiring?
Many are very rich sa bisnes nila. Ikaw, kailan pa?
From the #1 Bestselling Pinoybisnes Guide Books for Filipino Entrepreneurs
Be Inspired, Be Motivated to Start & Manage Your Own Business Now!
Easy to Read Books. Practical & Pinoy Setting. GREAT GIFT
Book #1- A Smart & Practical Guide For New Entrepreneurs
Book #2- Be Smart/Start & Manage Your Own Business
Book #7- Best Advice For Your Own Business
⇦ This Book#2 New Edition – Now Available
New Topic: How to register your small business so that you DO NOT pay Income Tax. Pwede na, a New Law - No tax. Kailan pa? Now is the time to solve your money problems!
Available only at National Book Store & Powerbooks

Going...going...DOWN!
HONG KONG PACKAGE
as low as US$88
Image Travel & Tours Corporation
Unit 101, Lobby Level, Manila Pavilion Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Manila) U.N. Ave., Ermita, Manila 1000
Tel. Nos.: 404-0356 • 404-0357 • 404-0358 • 523-4226 • 523-5830 • 523-6201 • 404-0356 to 58
Fax No.: 525-1499 Email: image@mindgate.net
D.O.T. Accreditation No. TO-076-2002

COPIERS Sales / Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
ALSO AVAILABLE: LIQUID COPIERS
P15,000. ONLY
POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15CPM
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
P 49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW! CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
P20,000. ONLY
BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
P17,500. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS / BLUEPRINT / RISO FAX MACHINES, ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY • TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
Introducing CLEAR POWDER COPIER w/ Reducer & Enlarger for Only P18,000
RECONDITIONED
RICOH FT 3313 Reducer/Enlarger
For only P18,000
RICOH FT 3113 For only P15,000
Canon MPC 400
Brand new Colored Copier, Printer & Scanner
P20,000
LAMINATOR P6,500
THERMAL BINDER P8,500
Other copiers also available: FT 3013, FT 3513, FT 3213, FT 4418
SALES: 899-7101 up to 04 / 899-7045 • 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J. P. Rizal Ave., near cor. Makati Ave., Makati City • Fax: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sanslangko St., Cebu City ☎ 255-0504 • 256-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: McArthur Hi-way, Dolores San. Fdo. ☎ 963-5055 to 56 • Fax: 963-5059 • Digitel: 860-0383

STRETCH YOUR BUYING POWER
AVAIL OF OUR PABX
LEASE – TO - OWN
For as Low as
P10,999.99
Down Payment Only
STANDARD FEATURES :
• INTERCOM
• CALL PICK-UP
• CALL BARRING
• DAY /NIGHT MODE
• CALL HOLD/TRANSFER
• AUTO LINE SELECTION
• NDD & IDD RESTRICTION
FREE DEMO
Also Available :
Samsung & LG PABX System
CALL US AND WE WILL TELL YOU MORE OF OUR EXCITING PROMOS
EverTel
EVERTEL PHILIPPINES, CORP.
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 715-7978, 715-7977 or TEXT US at (0916)7577647 & WE WILL CALL YOU

30% DISCOUNT
Enjoy Our Special Promo for
TAXI ROOM S.T. ONLY
FIRST CLASS FACILITIES
at THIRD CLASS RATE.
From November 16, 2003 to February 29, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.856568 Series of 2003
Longwood Garden Drive-In Hotel
1711 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay, Metro Manila
Near Vito Cruz, Manila

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
GS 631-6307; HS 631-6356; Registrar 632-9547; Fax No. 631-6310
(PAASCU ACCREDITED)
ANNOUNCES THE OPENING FOR SY 2004-2005
KINDERGARTEN, PREPARATORY, GRADES 1 to 7,
FIRST – THIRD YEAR HIGH SCHOOL
For further information, please call the Registrar's Office
ALL CLASSROOMS ARE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED

DOE OIL PRICE MONITOR

WORLD OIL PRICES HIT HIGHEST

World oil prices hit the highest levels since the US-Iraq war.
- Dubai crude hit the highest at $29.74 per barrel in January 13, 2004 from only about $25 per barrel in September 2003.
- Unleaded gasoline reached $49.25 per barrel in January 9, 2004 from the recorded highest spot price of $44.10 per barrel in March 2003.
- The price of diesel was highest at $43 per barrel from only $33 per barrel five months ago. Strict compliance with fuel standard requirements under the Clean Air Act has also strained local pump prices of diesel.

The volatility of the peso-dollar exchange rate has greatly affected local pump prices. The peso is now about P56 to $1.

LOCAL OIL PRICES STILL LOWEST

The Philippines still enjoys the lowest local pump prices compared to its neighboring countries in Asia, except oil exporting countries' Indonesia and Malaysia, despite the upward movement of oil prices in the world market.

Pump Price in Peso Per Liter as of February 3, 2004

	Unleaded Gasoline	Diesel
	Pump Price	Pump Price
Philippines	23.03	18.13
Thailand	24.24	20.81
Cambodia	32.05	23.76
Australia	41.95	40.92
Singapore	42.13	23.20
New Zealand	43.20	24.18
Hongkong	80.89	44.00

www.doe.gov.ph
840-14-01
ENERTEXT: DOE<space><message><2920>

AFP nixes soldiers' 'hotline' to Palace

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED FORCES yesterday rejected a proposal from a presidential adviser that soldiers take their grievances against senior officers directly to Malacañang, warning of dire consequences if it is adopted.

But Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, public information chief of the AFP, said the military will study the proposal made by political science professor Carolina Hernandez and submit a position paper to Malacañang.

Hernandez was appointed the presidential adviser for the implementation of the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission which investigated the July 2003 failed coup.

Lucero said the Hernandez proposal would undermine and weaken the military chain of command, "the only thing that keeps the Armed Forces together."

"This will lead to chaos and will erode and undermine our concept of leadership and followership," he said.

He said it will weaken the power of military commanders over their personnel and lead to "some soldiers questioning their commanders in a war situation."

The internal dynamics of the AFP should be viewed from the military perspective, not a civilian one, he said.

Lucero said the AFP has already enhanced its own grievance mechanism and it has been seen to work.

If the executive branch really wants to implement reforms in the AFP, the best way to go about this would be to "to strengthen the concept of militarization in the AFP ... this proposal would just civilianize the AFP," he said.

In a related development, a National Bureau of Investigation official said Baltazar Asadon's statements implicating Pastor "Boy" Saycon in an alleged plot to destabilize the government were credible because they tallied with earlier statements of two other military captains.

Marianito Panganiban, the chief of the NBI's Special Task Force investigating the clandestine Kawal Pilipino press conference last week, yesterday said the statements of Asadon corroborated the earlier ones made by Captains Marcos Serafica and Mohammad Yusop Hassan.

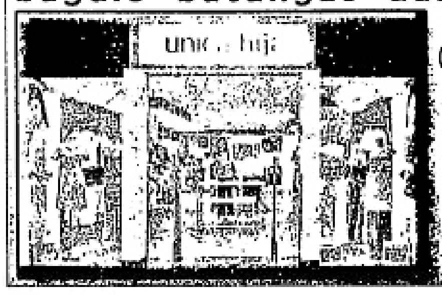
Serafica and Hassan said Saycon misled them into joining the press conference in an Ayala Alabang house last week where Army captains calling themselves the Kawal Pilipino denounced President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly ordering the military to spy on her rival presidential candidates.

Asadon, the "Capt. Gabay" who read the Kawal Pilipino manifesto and was later identified as a lawyer named Azoden Baltazar, surrendered to the NBI on Wednesday. It was revealed that his real name was Baltazar Asadon and that he was a law student at the Far Eastern University.

Asadon said he surrendered because he feared for his life as he would be going against Saycon. *With a report from Leila Salaverria*

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE GRAND DRAW FOR SAMSUNG/BMW Digitall Match on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004 is postponed to Monday Feb. 9, 2004 to be held still at Samsung Head Office, 4 pm. Lucky winners would be notified through registered mail.

NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISING
baguio • batangas • dasmariñas • davao • lucena
FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL OUR MANILA OFFICE
(02) 371-8373 (02) 410-1111 TELEFAX (02) 374-6866
Look for Ms. Michelle dela Cruz
unica hija
my kinda girl
LADIES' BASIC CLOTHING WITH A TWIST



We've outdone ourselves.
For the second consecutive year, we've achieved Triple Crown.
Thank you very much for making us No. 1 in Passenger Cars, in Commercial Vehicles and in Overall Sales in 2003.*
REVO
RAV4

And because we owe this to you, we're outdoing what we did last year by giving you MUCH better financing deals on the Revo and RAV 4.

Avail of FREE PARTS AND LABOR for the first 4 periodic check-ups when you purchase through Toyota Financial Services.**

- Down payment for as low as P185,600 for the VX200 Revo A/T and P199,600 for the Rav4 4x2 M/T.
- Low monthly payments of P7,377 for the Revo DLX Dsl for 60 months.***
- Low monthly payments of P10,811 for the RAV4 4x2 for 72 months.***
- Low monthly interest rates.
- Most stretched financing plans from 12 to 72 months.
- Special packages for cash buyers.

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
REVO VX 200 A/T	928,000.00	185,600.00	63,947	44,024	34,965	25,045	20,418	17,383	
SR A/T	862,000.00	172,400.00	59,176	40,740	32,359	23,178	18,897	16,086	
GSX A/T	827,000.00	165,400.00	56,646	38,998	30,977	22,188	18,090	15,399	
GLX A/T	787,000.00	157,400.00	53,755	37,008	29,397	21,057	17,167	14,613	
GL GAS	678,000.00	135,600.00	45,876	31,584	25,094	17,974	14,654	12,471	
DLX DSL	670,000.00	134,000.00	45,298	31,186	24,778	17,748	14,469	12,314	
RAV4 4x2 (20%dp)	998,000.00	199,600.00	69,454	47,816	37,968	27,196	22,172	18,880	
RAV4 4x2 (50%dp)	998,000.00	499,000.00	42,402	29,192	23,191	16,612	13,543	11,527	10,811

* Based on official 2003 CAMPI Vehicle Sales Results
** 1,000 / 5,000 / 10,000 and 15,000 kms
*** At 50% downpayment

For areas covered by Toyota Financial Services
TOYOTA
FINANCIAL SERVICES
FOR A TOYOTA, GO TO TOYOTA.

Promo period up to February 15, 2004 only.

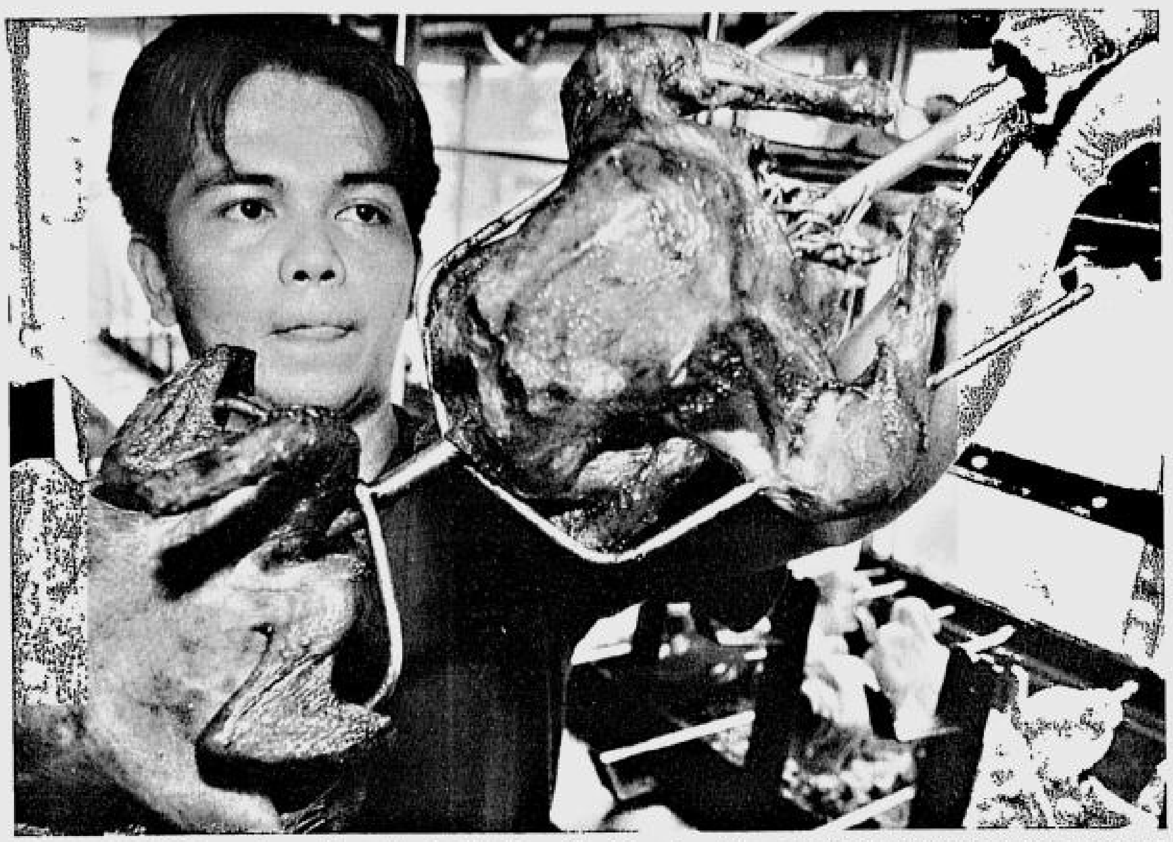
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0462 Series of 2004.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 **TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY**, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (0 34) 444-1811 to 13 **TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY**, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC.**, EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH**, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 **TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC.**, Diversion Road, Barangay Balaglas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 **TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC.** Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 **TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC.**, Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 (088)858-7770 **TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC.**, 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 **TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE**, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 **TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH**, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 **TOYOTA CUBAO, INC.**, 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 **TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC.**, Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 **TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE**, Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2597 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) **TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC.**, Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 **TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC.**, Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 **TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP.**, Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 **TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION** Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 **TOYOTA METROPOLITAN MAKATI INC.**, Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 **TOYOTA OTIS, INC.**, 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 **TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC.**, 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 **TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC.**, 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 **TOYOTA SHAW, INC.**, 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 / 717-0707 to 08 / 717-0338 to 40 / 727-2387 (telefax) **TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS**, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



THE PHILIPPINES remains unaffected by the bird flu epidemic in other Asian countries as evidenced by the continued brisk sale of chicken. Filipino vendor Alan Junsay prepares grilled chicken for his customers. AFP

Gov't sets aside ₱250M …

From page A1

the campaign. The health secretary had recommended that he and Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo be designated crisis managers, but Ms Macapagal overruled Dayrit.

The drive would be patterned after the government's successful anti-SARS campaign last year, which won praise from the WHO.

"The key to preventing the spread of SARS to the Philippines was our quarantine procedures. In the same way that we prevented the entry of individuals with symptoms of SARS, the government and the private sector will work together to prevent the entry of bird flu-infested chicken," Ms Macapagal said at a news conference at the Presidential Security Group Park before she left for a visit to Tiaong, Quezon.

Call centers

Dayrit said the government would also set up call centers to give information on bird flu and answer queries from the public.

Stricter customs

In a statement, the agriculture department said that P100 million would also be set aside for indemnifying affected farmers. If bird flu is discovered, all poultry within a 3.5-km radius would be culled as the disease is highly contagious.

The department also ordered stricter customs and quarantine procedures at ports in Mindanao to curb the smuggling of poultry and wild birds from neighboring Indonesia, where birds have been infected with the deadly H5N1 strain.

The government has also banned imports of poultry and live birds, including fighting cocks, from infected countries. Officials said migratory birds from China were also being watched.

Safe to eat chicken

At her news conference, Ms Macapagal also urged the public to continue consuming chicken meat. "There is no bird flu in the Philippines. It is safe to eat chicken," she said.

Fast-food chains have also come out with ads in a bid to convince the public that well-cooked chicken and eggs pose no danger. Poultry raisers complained earlier this week that wholesale figures in January were down about 12 percent from a month earlier.

The local poultry industry, however, stands to benefit economically from being free of bird flu.

Japan, Brunei and hard-hit Vietnam have expressed interest in buying chickens from the country, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said.

No immunity

"Bird flu has never been isolated among livestock in the Philippines. It's a new virus for us. We are working to ensure that it does not enter the country, but we also have to ensure that we can identify it if it comes," Dayrit said in a phone interview.

Vietnam and Thailand are the only ones among 10 countries hit by bird flu to have reported cases in humans and almost all of them came from direct contact with infected chickens.

But experts say there is a remote chance the virulent H5N1 avian flu virus could infect a person with human flu and create a new strain which could set off a pandemic in a world population with no immunity to it. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Guingona: Military …

From page A1

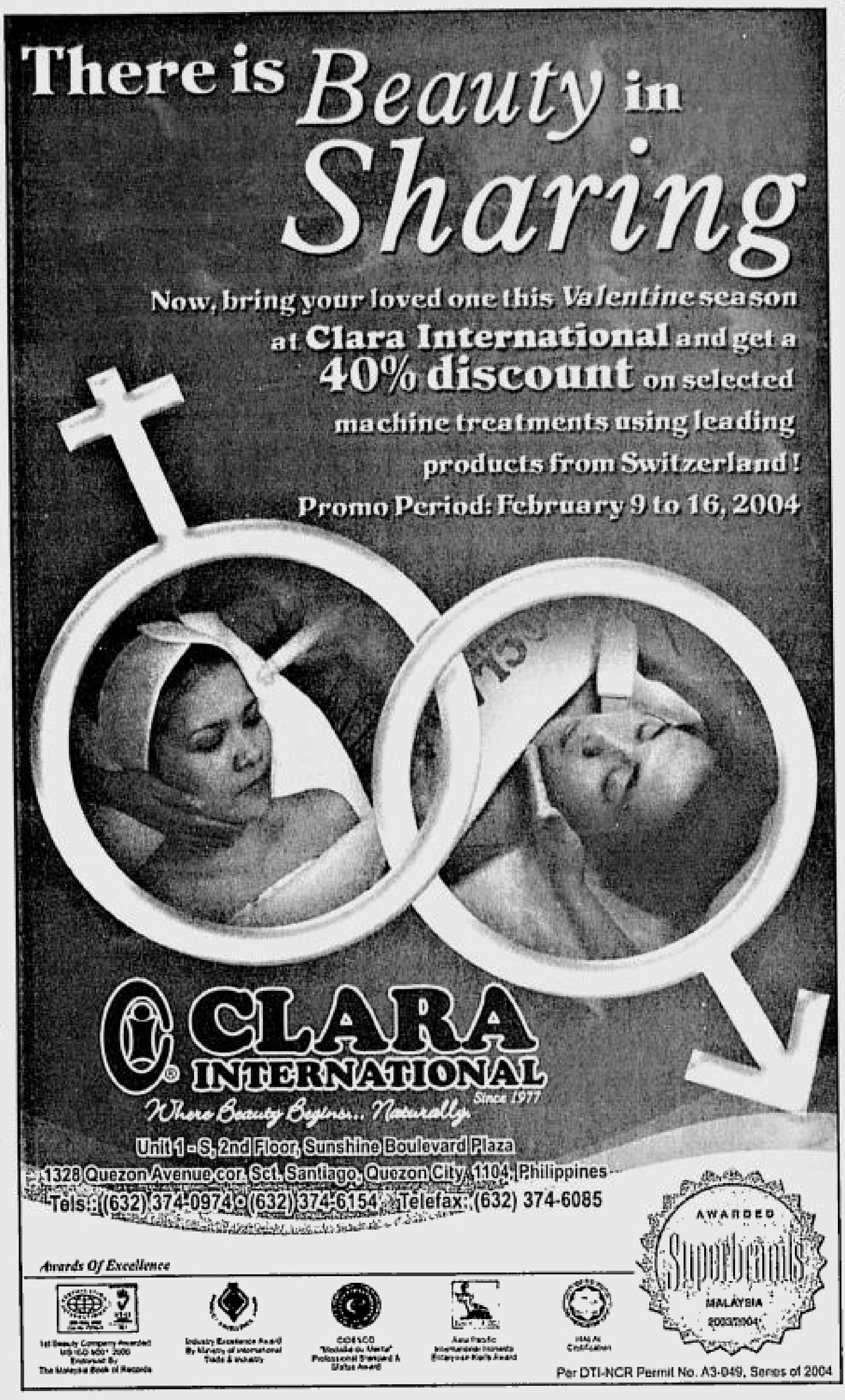
view over cable news station ANC, Guingona first said he "felt" that he was being spied upon. Later he said he "knew" that his activities were being spied upon. He did not elaborate.

Early this week, the Vice President, who was reportedly being wooed by opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and who was said to be involved in the Kawal Pilipino incident, raised warnings of a return to a police state similar to what the country had during the martial law years.

"Police power often comes slowly in the guise of protecting state stability. Misuse of intelligence, undue surveillance, taking talks out of context, smearing one's name by linking him to an alleged plot … all these are prohibited by the Constitution, yet all these are happening," Guingona said.

The Vice President said he would not take such abuses sitting down.

"We will resist these inroads to freedom. I speak not so much for myself but for those who become victims of this creeping peril. We will not relent. We will fight back," he said.



There is Beauty in Sharing
Now, bring your loved one this Valentine season at Clara International and get a 40% discount on selected machine treatments using leading products from Switzerland!
Promo Period: February 9 to 16, 2004
CLARA INTERNATIONAL
Where Beauty Begins... Naturally. Since 1977
Unit 1-S, 2nd Floor, Sunshine Boulevard Plaza
1328 Quezon Avenue cor. Sct. Santiago, Quezon City, 1104, Philippines
Tels.: (632) 374-0974 • (632) 374-6154 • Telefax: (632) 374-6085
Awards Of Excellence
AWARDED Superbrands MALAYSIA 2003/2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-049, Series of 2004

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
Philippine Grains Industry Council (PGIC)
for organizing the
RICE INDUSTRY SUMMIT
February 6, 2004
Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) with
Her Excellency
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
as Guest of Honor

THEME:
Rice Industry Modernization Towards Global Competitiveness

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Quezon City

MESSAGE

*I convey my warmest greetings to all the participants of the **'Rice Industry Summit,'** organized by the **Philippine Grains Industry Council, Inc. (PGIC).***

*With the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) declaring the year 2004 as the **'International Year of Rice,'** the Summit is indeed a most opportune time to celebrate the milestones that the Philippine rice sector has achieved through the years. We have achieved major inroads in developing more innovative and cost-efficient ways of addressing problem areas and speeding up the growth of the rice industry towards self-sufficiency and global competitiveness.*

*In particular, we at the Department of Agriculture thank the vigorous support of all stakeholders - from farmers, millers, traders, retailers, LGUs, input suppliers and the banking sector - in the sustained implementation of the **Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA)** Rice program, particularly in the massive promotion of hybrid and inbred rice varieties nationwide. Now, we are 94 percent self-sufficient, and as we expand our coverage, especially hybrid and inbred rice areas, we hope to achieve 97 percent - or even 100 percent - self-sufficiency this year.*

*I am therefore confident that the **'Rice Industry Summit'** will ensure a most meaningful celebration of the **'International Year of Rice,'** and further strengthen the unity of all stakeholders in fulfilling the vision of a productive and globally competitive Philippine rice industry, and the agriculture sector, as a whole.*

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

MESSAGE

Congratulations to the PGIC for organizing this momentous event that brings together the prime movers of the grains industry sector.

*The theme of this year's **Rice Industry Summit "Rice Industry Modernization Towards Global Competitiveness,"** is timely and significant. The rice industry, in order to be globally-competitive, must adapt to the changing times. Post harvest technologies must be utilized to minimize grains losses.*

*Under **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Post Harvest Modernization Program (PHMP)**, the NFA will establish modern grains centers nationwide to serve as processing, milling and trading centers for rice traders and producers. NFA rice mills are also undergoing modernization to minimize losses in post harvest activities.*

Along with the PGIC, the NFA fully supports the President's agricultural development program. The NFA also supports government efforts to attain rice self-sufficiency and this dream will only be realized if all stakeholders in the rice industry sector under the PGIC and NFA, will continue to harmoniously collaborate in making not only our basic staple, rice, available and accessible to all Filipino consumers, but work to increase the Filipino farmers' productivity and profitability.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes.

ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Administrator

THE ORIGINAL!
MAGIC SING
VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
with
ADVANCED RECORD & PLAY Feature!
It's as easy as
MODE + TMP = RECORD
MODE + KEY = PLAYBACK
FREE LEATHERETTE PROTECTIVE JACKET
Only from ASTRA MAGIC SING
ASTRA MAGIC SING
A CONVERGENCE OF SERVICE & QUALITY
FROM THE ASTRA GROUP, INC., THE OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR OF MAGIC SING VIDEOKE MICROPHONE • www.astramagicsing.com
Manufactured by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd. (Korea)
Available at:
• SM APPLIANCE CENTER • RUSTANS DEPT. STORE • ANSONS EMPORIUM • CROSSINGS DEPT. STORE
• AMBASSADOR APPLIANCES • HOTEL REMBRANDT • SOUND DIMENSION • GAISANO SOUTH GROUP
For wholesale and dealership inquiries, contact
THE ASTRA GROUP, INC. G/F, Richbelt Tower Condominium, 17 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan City • Tels. 722-4056, 722-6786 or 705-1321

LOREN up close with actress Helen Gamboa (left) during the Women Today press conference on Thursday which dubbed the vice presidential bet as an "Empowered Woman," and in a huddle with Alfredo Lim at the launching of the Consortium on Electoral Reforms.

JOAN BONDOC

Why did you pick Poe, Loren asked

From page A1

running mate?

This question was directed yesterday at Sen. Loren Legarda by Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) in reaction to her reported description on Wednesday of Sen. Noli de Castro, running mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If Loren really thinks that Noli has no brains or experience to govern, then she should answer why she is running with FPJ," Nograles said. "Why is she with FPJ if she really believes in brains and experience as prime qualities of a candidate seeking national office?"

Nograles said he hoped that Legarda had been misquoted because her reported remark on De Castro was bound to give her problems in defending Poe, a movie idol with no academic credentials and zero experience in governance.

He also said it was "unparliamentary" for Legarda to hit De Castro in that manner.

But Legarda yesterday said the INQUIRER in Davao City had taken her remark out of context.

She said she remembered that reporters had asked her what qualities she had that could help her candidacy.

"And I said for all leaders, *kailangan ng sinseridad na tumulong at integridad* (what are needed are the sincere desire to help and integrity). *Yun lang ang sinabi ko* (That's all I said)," she told Senate reporters.

She said the reporters then asked her if her rivals did not have the qualities she cited.

"Ang sabi ko, 'Hindi ko sinabi yun, huwag kayong ganyan' (What I said was, 'That's not what I said, don't be like that,'" she said.

The interview with Legarda in Davao was on tape.

No names

Legarda stressed that she did not even mention any names when she made her remarks.

"Pinipilit nila na isabong (They want us to fight)," she said.

De Castro and Legarda, who are professed good friends, were both news readers at ABS-CBN before they entered politics.

De Castro has refused to comment on Legarda's reported remark.

Asked whether she had phoned De Castro, Legarda said there was no need to explain anything because the report was without basis.

She said De Castro would not believe that she had issued such a statement against him and would not react to inaccurate reports.

Legarda also said a principle that she has always observed is not to put anyone down.

She said she would attend the wedding on Sunday of De Castro's daughter, she being one of the godmothers.

Legislative work

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Lakas, Iloilo City) said Legarda could not claim to be more brainy than De Castro.

He scoffed at Legarda's reported claim of having filed hundreds of bills, and said: "She has all kinds of resources, and there are staff, researchers and lawyers who make her bills and speeches."

Legarda was elected senator in 1998, and De Castro in 2001.

Following through on Nograles' point on Poe's lack of qualifications for public office, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) said public confidence in the actor has not improved "despite his much-vaunted recruitment of academic experts and economists."

Barbers also said the current downtrend in the economy could be blamed on Poe's "vision-less" candidacy.

Black propaganda

On Wednesday, Legarda accused Malacañang of orchestrating supposed black propaganda against her.

She said the latest effort to demolish her candidacy was Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus' description of her as a "political prostitute."

Legarda was teary-eyed when she told reporters at the Marco Polo hotel in Davao City that Corpus' statement had stunned her. "He hurt me and my family," she said of the chief of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service.

The senator, an active member of the ruling Lakas-CMD before she joined Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, expressed sadness that a military man like Corpus would allow politicians to use him.

She said joining the opposition was the right thing for her to do, and that her conscience was clear.

She also said Corpus had insulted the entire women's sector—a point with which the Davao-based Talikala, a group working with prostituted women, agreed.

Talikala area coordinator Jeanette Laurel said Corpus' statement was an affront to women and showed that he regarded women as second-class citizens.

"This is still the prevailing attitude of men against women," Laurel said, noting that Corpus did not call male politicians prostitutes even if they had switched to other parties.

Fairy tale

Legarda said Corpus was also behind the "fairy tale and fiction" being circulated against her, including a supposed bill that would cut the salary of teachers.

"There's no such bill," she said, adding that what she had authored was a measure that would increase teachers' benefits and wages.

Legarda said that under her bill, which seeks to amend Republic Act 4670, or the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, teaching assignments in excess of 12 hours a week shall be paid for at the same regular rate, plus at least 25 percent of the teacher's basic pay.

"Also, salaries in private schools shall compare favorably with public schools, and shall be adjusted upward annually to cover the effects of inflation as measured by the consumer price index," she said. ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

FUNNYSIDE
Entertainment Restaurant & Bar
The Place to Wine, Dine & Unwind

Located in the heart of Quezon City, **FUNNYSIDE** offers fine dining and superb entertainment. Enjoy yourself to the fullest and always try to see the **FUNNYSIDE** of life.

SHOW SCHEDULES
February Entertainers
Feb. 6 - ARPIE & D' MULTIVITAMINS
Feb. 7 - SHERYN MAE REGIS
(Star in a Million 1st Runner-up together with Christian Bautista)
Feb. 9 - XSENTRIC ACOUSTIC BAND
Feb. 10 - DREAM SEQUENCE BAND

For reservation please call 928-9637 & 927-7729
or visit us at #62 Timog Ave. near cor.
Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City

HONEY HOLIDAYS
Special Promotion
3D2N
HONGKONG
$99
Direct Flight To HongKong
Departure: Feb. 6 up to Feb. 27
**Booking & issuance of tickets should be made on 6 to10 Feb only!
• *MKT:* 892-8631 to 35 / 892-4704 to 05
• *Q.C.:* 434-3879 / 924-1957

Celebrate!
SINGAPORE
from US$ 299
with 3-night hotel accommodation

BALI from US$ 455 with 3-night hotel accommodation
KUALA LUMPUR from US$ 399 with 3-night hotel accommodation
BANGKOK from US$ 399 with 3-night hotel accommodation
AUSTRALIA from US$ 477
EUROPE from US$ 799
USA from US$ 799
SOUTH AFRICA from US$ 822

Singapore TOURISM BOARD

Singapore Airlines, in cooperation with the Singapore Tourism Board, gives you a reason to celebrate with these irresistible airfares and packages. Stopover in Singapore and from only US$60, extend your stay for 2 nights with hotel accommodation, airport transfers, unlimited rides on the SIA Hop-on Bus and free admission to 10 key attractions. En route, enjoy KrisWorld, the world's most advanced inflight entertainment system with over 250 entertainment options including Audio-Video on demand in every seat*. All these, of course, with the inflight service even other airlines talk about.

Get a FREE Travel Bag for Australia, Europe, USA, and South Africa airfares, or a FREE Passport Holder for South East Asia packages when you book these from February 6-8 at the PTAA Travel Tour Expo, Megatrade Halls 1 & 2, SM Megamall. Downpayment must be given upon booking.

A GREAT WAY TO FLY
www.singaporeair.com/ph

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Packages are available from your travel agent. Or, you may also call SIA Tours Desk at 751-51-51 to 52 (for South East Asia packages) and SIA Reservations at 810-49-51 to 59 (for Australia, USA, Europe and South Africa). For departures from Cebu and Davao, please call SIA Provincial Reservations in Cebu at (032) 232-62-11 and Davao at (082) 224-56-08. Valid for departures from 10 January to 18 March 2004. All prices quoted are per person based on economy class travel and exclude taxes, fees and insurance surcharge. Two or more adults must travel together. Single supplement surcharge applies. Surcharge may apply for departures from Cebu and Davao. Discount applies to children below 12 years old. Other terms and conditions apply.
*Available on all Jubilee B777 Extended Range and MegaTop B747 intercontinental services and on selected Jubilee B777-200 and B777-300 services Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-054, Series of 2004.

Filipino accused of aiding JI haled before UK court

From page A1

brought in for questioning but was later released without charge.

Under the United Kingdom's Terrorism Act 2000, a suspected terrorist could be arrested without a warrant.

Detective Inspector Mark Brown told the court that Ofrasio was believed to be linked to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). The JI is thought to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, and is blamed for October 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that left more than 200 dead.

Intelligence authorities in Asia say JI has linked up with other Islamic militants in the region, including Muslim separatist rebels in Mindanao.

E-mail

The investigation of Ofrasio's alleged links to JI took in a series of telephone records and financial transactions, Detective Inspector Brown told Belfast Magistrates Court. Brown said the investigation focused on an e-mail sent from Malaysia.

"The nature of the evidence will be computerized. There will be financial and telephone evidence which is being looked at," Brown said. "We conducted a number of searches in Belfast and a number of searches in the Philippines and we are looking to connect them."

Ofrasio's attorney, Catherine McGinley, said her client "has given a full and frank account of how he became an associate with a person who is detained in Southeast Asia." She offered no details.

A Philippine government official said information from two suspected JI leaders, separately arrested in the Philippines and in neighboring Malaysia, allegedly led authorities to Ofrasio in Belfast.

One of the purported JI leaders, Taufic Refqi, was arrested in Cotabato last October. The arrest of the suspected leader in Malaysia hasn't been announced by authorities there because operations are continuing, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Ofrasio was ordered held without bail until his next court appearance on Feb. 11.

Ofrasio has a legal migrant worker's visa, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs. He arrived in Belfast six months ago. His wife has been in Belfast for more than two years. The couple are from Cotabato.

The DFA learned from the Belfast police that the information that led to the arrest of Ofrasio came partly from Philippine authorities.

In a report to the DFA dated Jan. 30, charge d'affaires Estrella Berenguel of the Philippine Embassy in London said the charges against Ofrasio "have a lot of content" and were based on information "shared" by intelligence authorities in the United States, Australia and the Philippines.

Refki's landlord

Ofrasio has been linked to Refki, a suspected Indonesian terror leader who was arrested in Cotabato City on Oct. 13. The arresting team reportedly included agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Philippine authorities have found that Ofrasio owned the house rented by Refki and his companions at Block 4, Lot 9 of the San Pablo subdivision in Barangay Rosary Heights XI in Cotabato City.

Sol Abdullah, Indira's brother, said the Ofrasios were linked to Refki also because a motorcycle delivered to a certain Jimmy Ofrasio was allegedly used by the Indonesian during his stay in the city.

But relatives of the Ofrasios said they did not know any Jimmy Ofrasio. Jaybe's only male sibling is a minor, who is based in Manila, according to the relatives.

Abdullah said authorities from a Catholic school in Cotabato City, where both husband and wife had studied, told him they were willing to certify that the two were never involved in criminal activities while they were students.

Legal assistance

The couple will get legal assistance from the Philippine government, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said.

"We will ensure that his rights are protected," the President said.

While defending his legal rights, Ms Macapagal said the country would cooperate fully with Northern Ireland's prosecution of Ofrasio.

"This is a serious case involving terrorism and our nationals should prove their innocence or face the full force of the law" she said.

At a press conference, acting Foreign Secretary Sonia Cataumber-Brady said Philippine consular officials in London and Belfast had been instructed to assist Ofrasio.

Berenguel said embassy staff were also able to speak with Ofrasio's three children, one of whom talked about being traumatized by the arrest.

The children were brought to the care of another Filipino nurse while their parents were being interrogated. *Reports from AP, AFP; Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Jerome Aning and Celina Ribeiro in Manila*

British bank cites bright side to RP

From page A1

the back of strong consumption and an improvement in the external environment."

The bank projected that the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) this year would hit 4.8 percent or just slightly below the government's low-end goal of 4.9 percent.

Brice pointed out that in the report, the bank concluded that the weakness in the November export data "was either an anomaly or mismeasurement."

Peso to recover after polls

The government revised the export data for November that reflected a 3-percent growth instead of a 5-percent contraction. Last December, export receipts grew by 9 percent.

"On the financial market front, we agree with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that the peso is likely to recover after the election, in our opinion, to stronger levels currently being seen," Brice said.

He noted that the country's external position remained comfortable.

4 factors

"Philippine external debt servicing commitments are still relatively low. More importantly, the four factors that have assured this (openness of the economy, good public debt management, high and rising foreign worker remittances and relatively tight pricing of debt) are unlikely to change," the economist said.

Brice said that the fiscal sector remained a concern and that political uncertainty from now until the elections "will bring doomsayers out of the woodwork."

"But the government made significant progress in this area in 2003, evidenced by rising tax revenues as a percentage of GDP. And the country still has time on its side. Therefore, we would warn against becoming too pessimistic about the Philippine outlook as often happens during an election period," he said.

Zeny MP Iglesias, head of SCB Philippines' corporate affairs, pointed out that the bank was investing more than $4 million this year on new projects in the Philippines. "You might call this voting with our investment dollar," she said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

SCB letter to Bunye

Iglesias also sent a letter to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, saying that the Inquirer's first report on the study prepared by Brice had taken the SCB economist's comparison of the Philippines and Argentina "out of context."

"Hopefully, you will refer to this commentary to clarify the Bank's position and to enable the public, particularly the President, their kind understanding of this matter," Iglesias said.

The letter of Iglesias to Bunye also contained the e-mail of Brice who projected a strong rebound in peso shortly after the elections.

At a briefing yesterday, Bunye said Malacañang had not called SBC to clarify its report which President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier described as "extreme." Bunye denied that the SCB report irked the President.

"She takes this reports all in stride," Bunye said.

Doomsday scenarios

In her latest comment on the SBC report, the President said: "Let us not deal in doomsday scenarios that will aggravate anxieties and erode confidence."

The Philippines is often compared to Argentina because of the huge level of public debt.

But BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that the country's debt service ratio was only 16 percent while Argentina's was 66 percent of exports of goods and services. He said that 89 percent of the country's external debt was medium-to long-term, maturing in five years or longer. In contrast, Argentina had mostly short-term debts. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Makisaya sa SuperFerry Promo Rates

Manila to Cebu

for as low as P1,000*

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Cebu	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Tue	6:00 pm	CIP
	Tue	3:00 pm	SF 12	South Harbor	Wed	11:59 am	CIP
	Wed	6:00 pm	SF 19	South Harbor	Thu	3:00 pm	CIP
	Thu	7:30 pm	SF 12	South Harbor	Fri	4:30 pm	CIP
	Fri	9:30 am	SF 15/16	South Harbor	Sat	6:30 am	CIP
	Sun	9:00 am	SF 12	South Harbor	Mon	6:00 am	CIP

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

*Terms & conditions apply.

Manila to Puerto Princesa

for as low as P1,200*

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Puerto Princesa	Wed	4:00 pm	SF 1	South Harbor	Thu	1:00 pm	PPS
	Fri	9:00 pm	SF 1	South Harbor	Sat	7:00 pm	PPS

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

*Terms & conditions apply.

Manila to Nasipit/Surigao

for as low as P1,600*

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Surigao	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Wed	4:30 am	Sur
	Fri	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Sat	4:00 am	Sur

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Nasipit	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Wed	10:30 am	Nas
	Fri	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Sun	10:30 am	Nas

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

*Terms & conditions apply.

HOTLINES:
Manila (02)528-7000 • Cebu (032)232-0490 to 94
Nasipit/Butuan (085)342-8529 • Surigao (086)231-9645
Puerto Princesa (048)434-5734

SuperFerry
www.wgasuperferry.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: FASTPAK CEBU FERRIES SuperCat RCPI ABS SuperSure

Filipino accused of aiding JI haled before UK court

From page A1

brought in for questioning but was later released without charge.

Under the United Kingdom's Terrorism Act 2000, a suspected terrorist could be arrested without a warrant.

Detective Inspector Mark Brown told the court that Ofrasio was believed to be linked to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). The JI is thought to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, and is blamed for October 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that left more than 200 dead.

Intelligence authorities in Asia say JI has linked up with other Islamic militants in the region, including Muslim separatist rebels in Mindanao.

E-mail

The investigation of Ofrasio's alleged links to JI took in a series of telephone records and financial transactions, Detective Inspector Brown told Belfast Magistrates Court. Brown said the investigation focused on an e-mail sent from Malaysia.

"The nature of the evidence will be computerized. There will be financial and telephone evidence which is being looked at," Brown said. "We conducted a number of searches in Belfast and a number of searches in the Philippines and we are looking to connect them."

Ofrasio's attorney, Catherine McGinley, said her client "has given a full and frank account of how he became an associate with a person who is detained in Southeast Asia." She offered no details.

A Philippine government official said information from two suspected JI leaders, separately arrested in the Philippines and in neighboring Malaysia, allegedly led authorities to Ofrasio in Belfast.

One of the purported JI leaders, Taufic Refqi, was arrested in Cotabato last October. The arrest of the suspected leader in Malaysia hasn't been announced by authorities there because operations are continuing, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Ofrasio was ordered held without bail until his next court appearance on Feb. 11.

Ofrasio has a legal migrant worker's visa, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs. He arrived in Belfast six months ago. His wife has been in Belfast for more than two years. The couple are from Cotabato.

The DFA learned from the Belfast police that the information that led to the arrest of Ofrasio came partly from Philippine authorities.

In a report to the DFA dated Jan. 30, charge d'affaires Estrella Berenguel of the Philippine Embassy in London said the charges against Ofrasio "have a lot of content" and were based on information "shared" by intelligence authorities in the United States, Australia and the Philippines.

Refki's landlord

Ofrasio has been linked to Refki, a suspected Indonesian terror leader who was arrested in Cotabato City on Oct. 13. The arresting team reportedly included agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Philippine authorities have found that Ofrasio owned the house rented by Refki and his companions at Block 4, Lot 9 of the San Pablo subdivision in Barangay Rosary Heights XI in Cotabato City.

Sol Abdullah, Indira's brother, said the Ofrasios were linked to Refki also because a motorcycle delivered to a certain Jimmy Ofrasio was allegedly used by the Indonesian during his stay in the city.

But relatives of the Ofrasios said they did not know any Jimmy Ofrasio. Jaybe's only male sibling is a minor, who is based in Manila, according to the relatives.

Abdullah said authorities from a Catholic school in Cotabato City, where both husband and wife had studied, told him they were willing to certify that the two were never involved in criminal activities while they were students.

Legal assistance

The couple will get legal assistance from the Philippine government, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said.

"We will ensure that his rights are protected," the President said.

While defending his legal rights, Ms Macapagal said the country would cooperate fully with Northern Ireland's prosecution of Ofrasio.

"This is a serious case involving terrorism and our nationals should prove their innocence or face the full force of the law" she said.

At a press conference, acting Foreign Secretary Sonia Cataumber-Brady said Philippine consular officials in London and Belfast had been instructed to assist Ofrasio.

Berenguel said embassy staff were also able to speak with Ofrasio's three children, one of whom talked about being traumatized by the arrest.

The children were brought to the care of another Filipino nurse while their parents were being interrogated. *Reports from AP, AFP; Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Jerome Aning and Celina Ribeiro in Manila*

British bank cites bright side to RP

From page A1

the back of strong consumption and an improvement in the external environment."

The bank projected that the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) this year would hit 4.8 percent or just slightly below the government's low-end goal of 4.9 percent.

Brice pointed out that in the report, the bank concluded that the weakness in the November export data "was either an anomaly or mismeasurement."

Peso to recover after polls

The government revised the export data for November that reflected a 3-percent growth instead of a 5-percent contraction. Last December, export receipts grew by 9 percent.

"On the financial market front, we agree with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that the peso is likely to recover after the election, in our opinion, to stronger levels currently being seen," Brice said.

He noted that the country's external position remained comfortable.

4 factors

"Philippine external debt servicing commitments are still relatively low. More importantly, the four factors that have assured this (openness of the economy, good public debt management, high and rising foreign worker remittances and relatively tight pricing of debt) are unlikely to change," the economist said.

Brice said that the fiscal sector remained a concern and that political uncertainty from now until the elections "will bring doomsayers out of the woodwork."

"But the government made significant progress in this area in 2003, evidenced by rising tax revenues as a percentage of GDP. And the country still has time on its side. Therefore, we would warn against becoming too pessimistic about the Philippine outlook as often happens during an election period," he said.

Zeny MP Iglesias, head of SCB Philippines' corporate affairs, pointed out that the bank was investing more than $4 million this year on new projects in the Philippines. "You might call this voting with our investment dollar," she said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

SCB letter to Bunye

Iglesias also sent a letter to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, saying that the Inquirer's first report on the study prepared by Brice had taken the SCB economist's comparison of the Philippines and Argentina "out of context."

"Hopefully, you will refer to this commentary to clarify the Bank's position and to enable the public, particularly the President, their kind understanding of this matter," Iglesias said.

The letter of Iglesias to Bunye also contained the e-mail of Brice who projected a strong rebound in peso shortly after the elections.

At a briefing yesterday, Bunye said Malacañang had not called SBC to clarify its report which President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier described as "extreme." Bunye denied that the SCB report irked the President.

"She takes this reports all in stride," Bunye said.

Doomsday scenarios

In her latest comment on the SBC report, the President said: "Let us not deal in doomsday scenarios that will aggravate anxieties and erode confidence."

The Philippines is often compared to Argentina because of the huge level of public debt.

But BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that the country's debt service ratio was only 16 percent while Argentina's was 66 percent of exports of goods and services. He said that 89 percent of the country's external debt was medium-to long-term, maturing in five years or longer. In contrast, Argentina had mostly short-term debts. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Makisaya sa
SuperFerry
Promo Rates

Manila to Cebu
for as low as P1,000*
*Terms & conditions apply.

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Cebu	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Tue	6:00 pm	CIP
	Tue	3:00 pm	SF 12	South Harbor	Wed	11:59 am	CIP
	Wed	6:00 pm	SF 19	South Harbor	Thu	3:00 pm	CIP
	Thu	7:30 pm	SF 12	South Harbor	Fri	4:30 pm	CIP
	Fri	9:30 am	SF 15/16	South Harbor	Sat	6:30 am	CIP
	Sun	9:00 am	SF 12	South Harbor	Mon	6:00 am	CIP

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Manila to Puerto Princesa
for as low as P1,200*
*Terms & conditions apply.

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Puerto Princesa	Wed	4:00 pm	SF 1	South Harbor	Thu	1:00 pm	PPS
	Fri	9:00 pm	SF 1	South Harbor	Sat	7:00 pm	PPS

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

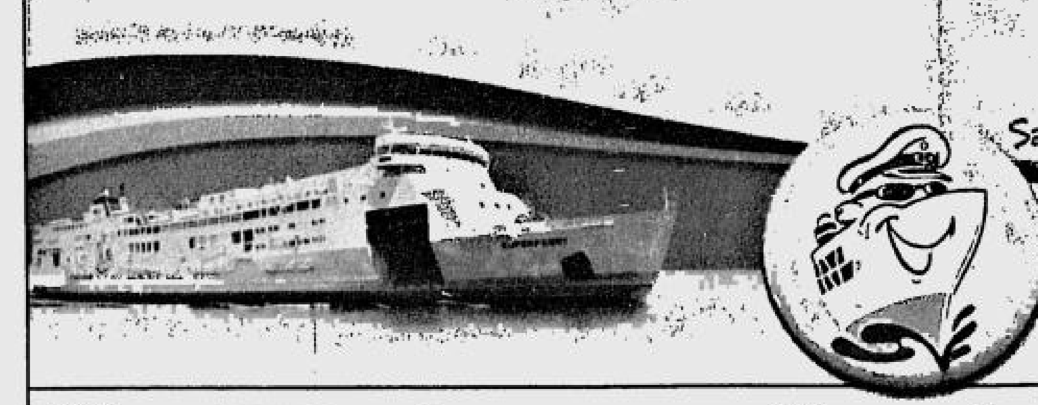
Manila to Nasipit/Surigao
for as low as P1,600*
*Terms & conditions apply.

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Surigao	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Wed	4:30 am	Sur
	Fri	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Sat	4:00 am	Sur

From MANILA to	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	day	time	vessel	pier	day	time	pier
Nasipit	Mon	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Wed	10:30 am	Nas
	Fri	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	Sun	10:30 am	Nas

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

HOTLINES:
Manila (02)528-7000 • Cebu (032)232-0490 to 94
Nasipit/Butuan (085)342-8529 • Surigao (086)231-9645
Puerto Princesa (048)434-5734



SuperFerry
www.wgasuperferry.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: FASTPAK CEBU FERRIES RCPI ABS SuperSure

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bird flu death toll climbs to 17

HANOI—The death toll from Asia's bird flu crisis rose to 17 Thursday as China rebutted accusations that it was covering up the disease and insisted it had no human infections.

The latest fatality from avian influenza in Vietnam came as the United States slapped bans on the import of poultry and unprocessed poultry products from eight of the 10 Asian nations tackling outbreaks.

Tran Tinh Hien, director of the Hospital for Tropical Disease in Vietnam's southern business capital of Ho Chi Minh City, said a 16-year-old girl from Soc Trang province died on Tuesday after being hospitalized on Jan. 26.

Her death takes the number of human infections in the communist nation to 16, 12 of whom have died. Two others have made a complete recovery, but an 8-year-old girl and a 20-year-old woman remain in hospital.

Thailand, where five people have died, is the only other country to have confirmed human infections of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Amid fears that China could be seeking to hide human cases as it attempted to do during last year's SARS crisis, vice health minister Wang Longde refuted Thursday allegations of human infections in the country.

"There is no human patient in China," he told reporters, attributing this to China's improved surveillance system.

"Since the SARS outbreak, the ministry of health has strengthened its surveillance system. If there is suspected human case, health authorities even at the county level will report it to the ministry of health," he said.

Vice agriculture minister Liu Jian also sought to reassure the international community that everything was above board in China, which has reported five confirmed and 18 suspected outbreaks of bird flu.

"Governments at different levels are required not to conceal the epidemic or trump up information on the epidemic," he said, adding that all cases had been reported in line with the country's epidemic prevention laws.

The World Health Organization has warned that the H5N1 virus could kill millions across the globe if it combined with a human influenza virus to create a new highly contagious strain transmissible among humans.

It says the further culling of birds, improved hygiene measures and a ban on poultry imports from affected areas are essential to containing the virus. *AFP*

TAIWAN Premier Yu Shyi-kun (center) and two female legislators eat chickens behind a poster of a rooster at the Parliament in Taipei, Feb. 5 to show the public it is safe to eat chicken. AFP

China faces uphill battle vs bird flu

BEIJING—China is not fully prepared to control bird flu and many people do not know how to stop it spreading across the huge country where most fowl are raised on small, cramped farms, the government said on Thursday.

Stopping the bird flu, which has killed 16 people in other parts of Asia, was going to be a hard job but it would be done, the Ministry of Agriculture said.

"Some parts of our animal disease prevention system are weak and vulnerable and the public has limited knowledge about the disease and ways to prevent it," the ministry said in a statement.

"It remains an arduous task for China to prevent and control the disease," it said, but added: "The Chinese government is confident in its battle against the disease."

The difficulties were exacerbated by a diverse and scattered poultry industry, which produced eight billion chickens in 2003, said Agriculture Vice Minister Liu Jian.

"This has brought some problems in controlling this epidemic," Liu said US regulators say nearly four out of five fowl in China are bred on household farms, where villagers live close to their animals.

Twelve of China's 31 provinces have confirmed or suspected outbreaks of the avian influenza, which has devastated flocks across Asia and killed 11 people in Vietnam and five in Thailand.

More than 1.2 million chickens have been culled in China, the ministry said.

But China has yet to report a human case.

Health experts say the human victims have caught the flu from sick chickens and the virus is not being passed between people.

But there are fears the bird flu virus will combine with a human flu virus and mutate into a contagious disease that people have no resistance to.

Agriculture and health officials said local officials had strict orders to report any sign of human contagion promptly, openly and fully—echoing what became Beijing's catch phrase in its war on SARS after an initial cover-up last year.

Pressed to explain why no people had contracted the deadly strain, Health Vice-Minister Wang Longde said China had tightened human disease surveillance since SARS broke out. *Reuters*

10,000 birds drop dead from sky 'like rain'

BEIJING—More than 10,000 birds died mysteriously in eastern China's Jiangsu province, dropping like rain from the sky, state media reported Thursday.

Farmers and other witnesses in Sangongdian village in Taizhou city saw flocks of bramble finch suddenly fall from the sky Tuesday, the Beijing Youth Daily said.

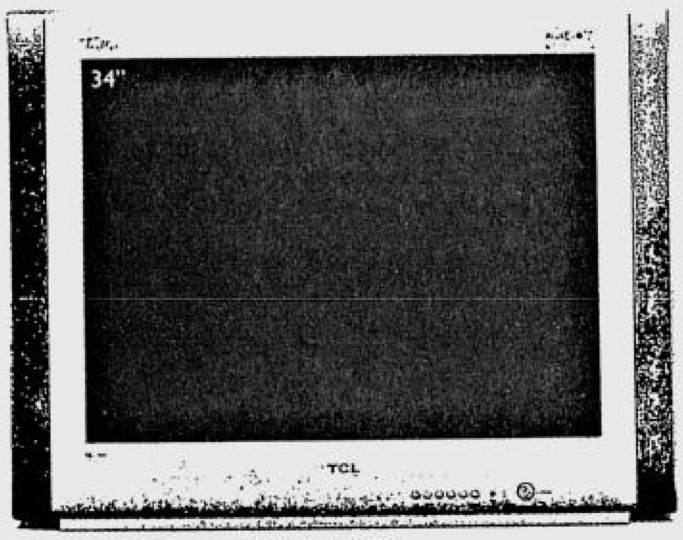
Most of the birds were dead when they hit the ground and some were injured, it said. The birds look like sparrows and are small in size.

Officials from the local center for disease prevention and control rushed to the scene. Samples from the birds were taken to a laboratory in nearby Nanjing city for testing to determine the cause of death.

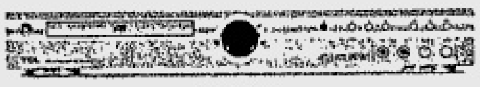
Experts from the Jiangsu province agriculture department said that because the birds died while in flight, the cause of death may have been contamination in their food, water or environment.

They did not immediately say whether there was any connection with the spreading bird flu outbreak in Asia. China said Thursday 56,417 birds in the country had been infected with bird flu and 49,236 of them had died. *AFP*

Our name has only three letters so you won't have to pay much for the logo.



3460 Bluedot Flat Screen



TDE-F70K

If you think about it, a product's quality is not determined by the number of letters in its name, rather by the number of countries involved in its engineering. In the case of TCL, it took not just one, not two, but five of the world's leaders in electronics just to build our TVs and DVD players. That's why they're loaded with all the latest state-of-the-art features you want and won't find in other brands. And even more amazing is their reasonable price. Thanks to our unique "hybrid technology", we can produce the most advanced products in the most cost-effective way possible. Just remember these three letters T...C...L... and ask yourself this question:

"Should I pay thousands more for just one or two additional letters?"

TCL
Technology that Conquers Limitations

Pakistan scientist confesses to nuke leak

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Cabinet was due to rule on the fate of disgraced nuclear program architect Abdul Qadeer Khan Thursday following his dramatic confession to proliferation charges.

The cabinet would decide whether to accept a plea for clemency made by Khan, who admitted proliferating nuclear technology and begged for forgiveness during a remarkable televised broadcast to the nation on Wednesday.

The founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, who is revered as a national hero, Khan said following a meeting President Pervez Musharraf that he had acted entirely on his own and without authorization from government.

Musharraf later summoned a special meeting of the National Command Authority (NCA), which controls the nuclear and missile program. It decided to refer the clemency petition to the cabinet for discussion.

"There was never ever any kind of authorization for these activities by the government, I take full responsibility for my actions and seek your pardon," 66-year-old Khan said in his address.

"I have chosen to appear before you to offer my deepest regrets and unqualified apologies to a traumatized nation," he said.

Khan's confession followed the questioning of more than a dozen nuclear scientists, engineers and administrators during a probe into leaks of Pakistan's nuclear know-how.

The investigation was prompted by information from Iran via the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that was forwarded to Pakistan in November.

Khan was sacked as a government science advisor last week after a two-month probe into the leaking of nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Authorities said Thursday they had issued formal arrest orders on five scientists and administrators already detained in connection with the probe.

"At least five people have been detained for a period of three months, Interior Ministry spokesperson Rauf Chaudhry said.

"They include nuclear scientists and administrators belonging to the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL)," he said.

They were detained under Pakistan's security law, he said.

Chaudhry said the detainees included senior KRL scientists Mohammad Farooq, doctor Nazir Ahmed and administrators retired Brig. Tajwar Khan and former Brig. Malik Sajawal.

Khan's principal staff officer, retired Major Islam ul Haq, has also been detained, he added. *AFP*

KHAN, right, founder of Pakistan's nuclear program poses with famous Pakistani singer Iqbal Bano after receiving the highest civil award of "Nishan-I-Imtiaz," in this undated photo taken in Islamabad, Pakistan. AP

Blair heckled, defends case for Iraq war

LONDON—Britain's Tony Blair batted off fresh attacks on Wednesday over the case he made for war in Iraq and was heckled by anti-war protesters as the furor over Saddam Hussein's elusive banned weapons refused to die down.

The prime minister's comments during a parliamentary debate were interrupted by shouting from the public gallery.

"No more whitewashes!" one heckler shouted at Blair, before being evicted along with four others. The debate was briefly suspended while the gallery was cleared.

Former British weapons expert Brian Jones fanned the flames, alleging the government had overruled intelligence analysts to present a "misleading" pre-war dossier on Iraq's banned weapons.

The prime minister said Jones' concerns had been passed to his superiors when he first raised them but had not been upheld.

Bowing to pressure, Blair has set up an independent inquiry into possible intelligence flaws but the move failed to silence his critics.

In parliament, he defended the verdict of senior judge Lord Hutton who last week cleared the government of exaggerating the threat posed by Iraq.

Blair emerged spotless from Hutton's inquiry into last July's suicide of scientist David Kelly, who killed himself after being outed as the source of a BBC report that claimed the government had "sexed up" its dossier on Iraq's weaponry.

Large parts of the media and the public have branded Hutton's report—which lambasted the BBC—one-sided.

Jones, now retired from the Ministry of Defence, stunned the Hutton inquiry when he told it he had complained to his bosses over the strength of language in the September 2002 dossier.

On Wednesday, he went further, telling the Independent newspaper that his department's expert intelligence analysts were overruled in the preparation of that paper, leading to "a presentation that was misleading about Iraq's capabilities." *Reuters*

Rumsfeld: 'Twas possible there were no WMD

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Wednesday it was possible, but not likely, that there had been no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq when US-led forces invaded.

Rumsfeld held out the possibility that a US-led team searching for chemical and biological weapons might eventually find them despite last month's conclusion by the group's departing leader, David Kay, that no stockpiles of such arms existed in Iraq when it was invaded last March.

Testifying to Senate and House of Representatives committees, Rumsfeld defended the war which Washington sought to justify at the time by saying Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

"I'm convinced that the president of the United States did the right thing in Iraq. Let there be no doubt," Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The world is a safer place today and the Iraqi people far better off for that action."

Publicly addressing Kay's comments for the first time, Rumsfeld acknowledged Iraq may not have possessed weapons at the start of the war.

"I suppose that's possible, but not likely," Rumsfeld testified.

He mentioned several competing theories to explain why such arms had not yet been found in Iraq:

- They may not have existed at the start of the war.
- Iraq had such weapons but they were "transferred in whole or in part to one or more other countries."
- Such weapons existed but were "dispersed and hidden throughout Iraq."
- The weapons were "destroyed at some moment prior" to the war.
- Iraq possessed small quantities of biological or chemical agents, and had "a surge capability for a rapid build-up—and that we may eventually find it in the months ahead." *Reuters*

Brace yourself for

SKY DSL
Faster in every way!

Introducing SkyDSL, the faster DSL service on all counts. Faster downloads at speeds up to 384 kbps and unlimited internet usage. Faster installations that get you connected in just 5 days. And faster 24/7 customer center that responds to your problems in 4 hours. SkyDSL breaks speed limits.

For a 5-day FREE trial, call 449-3293 or 449-3118, or visit our website at www.skyinet.net

SkyDSL is initially available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon, and Valenzuela.

Powered by: SKYinternet

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Police question Israel PM Sharon on bribery scandal

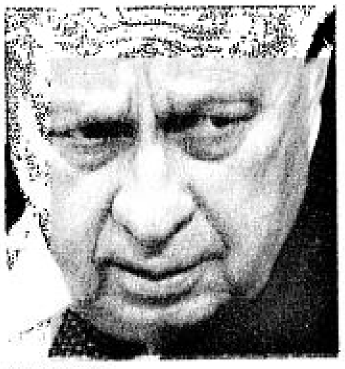
JERUSALEM—Police questioned Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Thursday about a bribery scandal that might lead to criminal charges against him and spark a political crisis further distracting from Middle East peacemaking.

A businessman friend was charged last month with trying to bribe Sharon in the 1990s. Prosecutors have said they should decide within months whether to indict the prime minister too—a move many analysts believe would force him from office.

Some critics have suggested that Sharon's shock announcement this week of a plan to get settlers out of the Gaza Strip might aim to divert attention from the scandal, a notion the prime minister—a champion of settlement-building—has denied.

Commentators said the case could weaken the 75-year-old Israeli leader's hand in any talks with the Palestinians on reviving a US-backed peace "road map" stalled by violence.

Prosecutors said indicted businessman David Appel hired Sharon's son Gilad in 1999 and paid him large sums to persuade his father, then foreign minister, to promote real estate deals including a Greek island resort that was never built.


SHARON

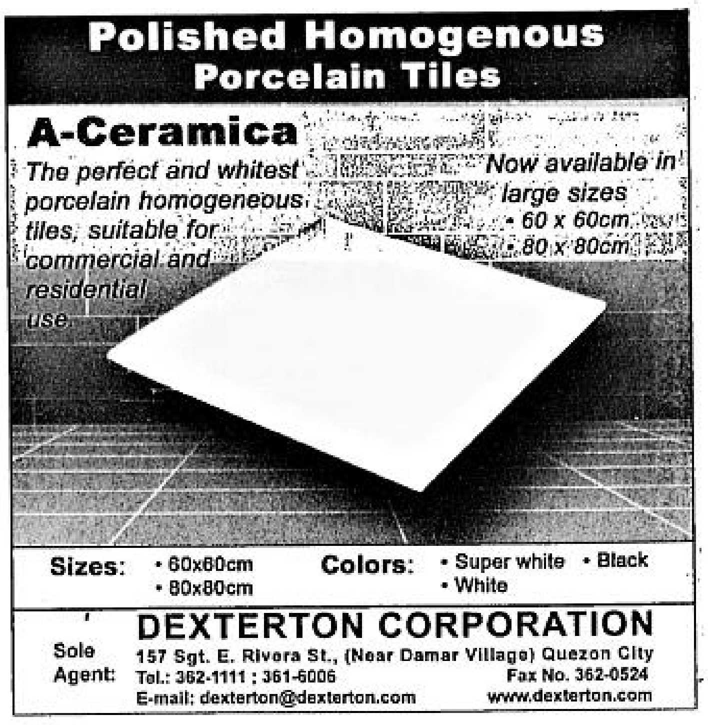
The indictment against Appel, who has denied the charges, did not cite any evidence that Sharon knowingly accepted political favors. Sharon also has denied any wrongdoing.

Police questioned the prime minister at his official residence in Jerusalem, though few analysts expected any immediate dramatic development in the case. He last met police investigators in October.

Sharon, leader of the right-wing Likud party, has rejected opposition calls to resign over the affair, vowing to stay in office at least until the next election in 2007.

On Wednesday, Sharon said he was prepared to hold a referendum before carrying out his plans to dismantle 17 of the 21 Jewish enclaves in the Gaza Strip where 7,500 Jews live amid 1.3 million Palestinians.

Polls show most Israelis favor scrapping Jewish enclaves exposed to a Palestinian uprising, both in Gaza and the West Bank, where Sharon plans to leave most settlements alone. *Reuters*


Polished Homogenous Porcelain Tiles

A-Ceramica

The perfect and whitest porcelain homogeneous tiles, suitable for commercial and residential use.

Now available in large sizes
• 60 x 60cm
• 80 x 80cm

Sizes: • 60x60cm • 80x80cm
Colors: • Super white • Black • White

Sole Agent: DEXTERTON CORPORATION
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006
Fax No. 362-0524
E-mail: dexterton@dexterton.com
www.dexterton.com

WORLDBRIEFS

Iraq handover delay

WASHINGTON—US officials opened the door on Wednesday to possibly delaying the June 30 handover of sovereignty to Iraqis, a move that may be unpopular with Iraqis and with Americans ahead of the US presidential election. Any delay would carry risks for the Bush administration, increasing the chances Iraq will loom larger in the Nov. 2 US election and opening up Washington to accusations in Iraq that it is reneging on promises to let go of power. Asked at a congressional hearing whether it was the Bush administration's position that the June 30 deadline could not be extended, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the decision was up to President George W. Bush. "I would never say never on the deadline myself. Clearly the goal is to pass sovereignty as soon as possible. But what judgments the president might or might not make depend on the way the world evolves, I would think," Rumsfeld later added. Another senior US official said Washington would consider a delay if a UN team proposed this. *Reuters*

Ricin investigation

WASHINGTON—The investigation into the appearance of the deadly poison ricin on Capitol Hill this week and earlier in two ominous letters is focusing on a mysterious "Fallen Angel" who threatens to use ricin as a weapon unless new trucking regulations are rolled back. Three senior federal law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity Wednesday, said the FBI and Capitol Police Department were investigating the possibility that the same person or persons who made those earlier threats sent ricin-laced mail to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. The typewritten letters, addressed to the White House and transportation department and signed by "Fallen Angel," warned that more ricin would be used unless some trucking regulations that went into effect Jan. 4 were scrapped. Hazardous materials teams from the FBI and Capitol police continued the search Wednesday night for a letter or parcel that might have carried the ricin powder found Monday in a mail-sorting room in Frist's personal office suite. No such parcel was immediately found. *AP*

Gay marriage in Boston

BOSTON—Massachusetts gays won another major victory on Wednesday when the state's top court told lawmakers to allow full-fledged marriage for same-sex couples because anything less would make them "second-class" citizens. Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court, whose landmark ruling last year struck down a state ban on same-sex marriages, said in an advisory opinion that only marriages for gays, not civil unions, were valid under the state's constitution. The court's 4-3 ruling echoed its November decision, and left no wiggle room for state lawmakers who were pushing for a law that would create Vermont-style civil unions—essentially a parallel form of marriage for gays and lesbians. *Reuters*

Group claims Arbil blasts

BAGHDAD—A little known Islamist group with alleged links to al-Qaida claimed responsibility Wednesday for the twin suicide attacks in the northern Iraqi Kurdish city of Arbil which have now killed at least 105 people. In a statement on an Islamist website, the Ansar al-Sunna group said "two of our martyr brothers attacked the two dens of Satan in Arbil" on Sunday. "Our joy on Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) was boosted by this attack against the agents of Jews and Christians," the statement said. It expressed sympathies with the "brothers" of the militant group Ansar al-Islam, which Kurdish political groups have fingered in the attack and which is suspected of links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. *AFP*

Building collapse toll now 38

KONYA, Turkey—Five people hugged each other as their apartment building collapsed, crushing them to death in central Turkey, the Anatolia news agency reported Thursday. Relief workers struggled to separate their bodies to be able to pull them out of the debris of the building, which has killed at least 38 people. As hopes dimmed to find more survivors, rescue workers pulled out the bodies of 11 people overnight, increasing the death toll to 38. Among the dead were a woman who was in the ninth month of her pregnancy and a little girl, thought to be 2 years old. Thirty-one survivors were evacuated from the wreckage in the hours after the Monday collapse. Between 40 to 100 people were feared trapped in the debris. AP

Ready for the Mini Revolution?
VISA
All it takes.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 60
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Tyranny of surveys

EDITORIAL

IF THERE are nuisance candidates, there must also be nuisance surveys. How else can one check the proliferation of overnight pollsters and surveys now that the nation is entering the election season? Surely there's a need to impose sanity and order in the national mania for polls and polls.

On the one hand, there ought to be order in polling and the release of polling results. This means a regime of regulation that would separate the grain from the chaff. And on the other, there ought to be critical discernment among the body politic so that the people would take survey results with a grain of salt.

About the first, it is worrisome to see polling emerge as a cottage industry at the remotest sight of the election. Polling firms sprout overnight and they threaten to ease out fly-by-night newspapers and campaign strategists and publicists as staples of the merry election season. (Of course, it is likely that all three—pollster, strategist and publicist—could be one and the same person in this era of multi-tasking.)

Perhaps a system of accreditation can be put in place that will recognize established polling firms from the professional and academic sectors. Only accredited polling firms can survey electoral preferences and publicize them. Inasmuch as the Commission on Elections is empowered by the Constitution and the law to handle all matters governing the correct conduct of the election, then (we are keeping our fingers crossed on this, because the Comelec has flubbed the computerization project and is spineless in checking electioneering) it can perhaps set up a system of accreditation, like the way it screens and accredits electoral watchdogs. Perhaps it can do so with some help from such organizations as the National Research Council of the Philippines.

Short of that, or complementary to that, the media must institute their own rules so that only those surveys that are conducted by legitimate, professional and credible polling firms will get media space. Accuracy and objectivity are paramount values in journalism that must be observed particularly in reporting the results of surveys. Gatekeeping should start right there in a newspaper's declaration of editorial principles. In this way, the media can dam the floodgates against the deluge of misleading and politically motivated surveys.

The fact that political polls have exercised a terrible sway on the conduct of our democratic life leads us to our second proposal: that there should be critical discernment among voters themselves about what passes for polls and surveys.

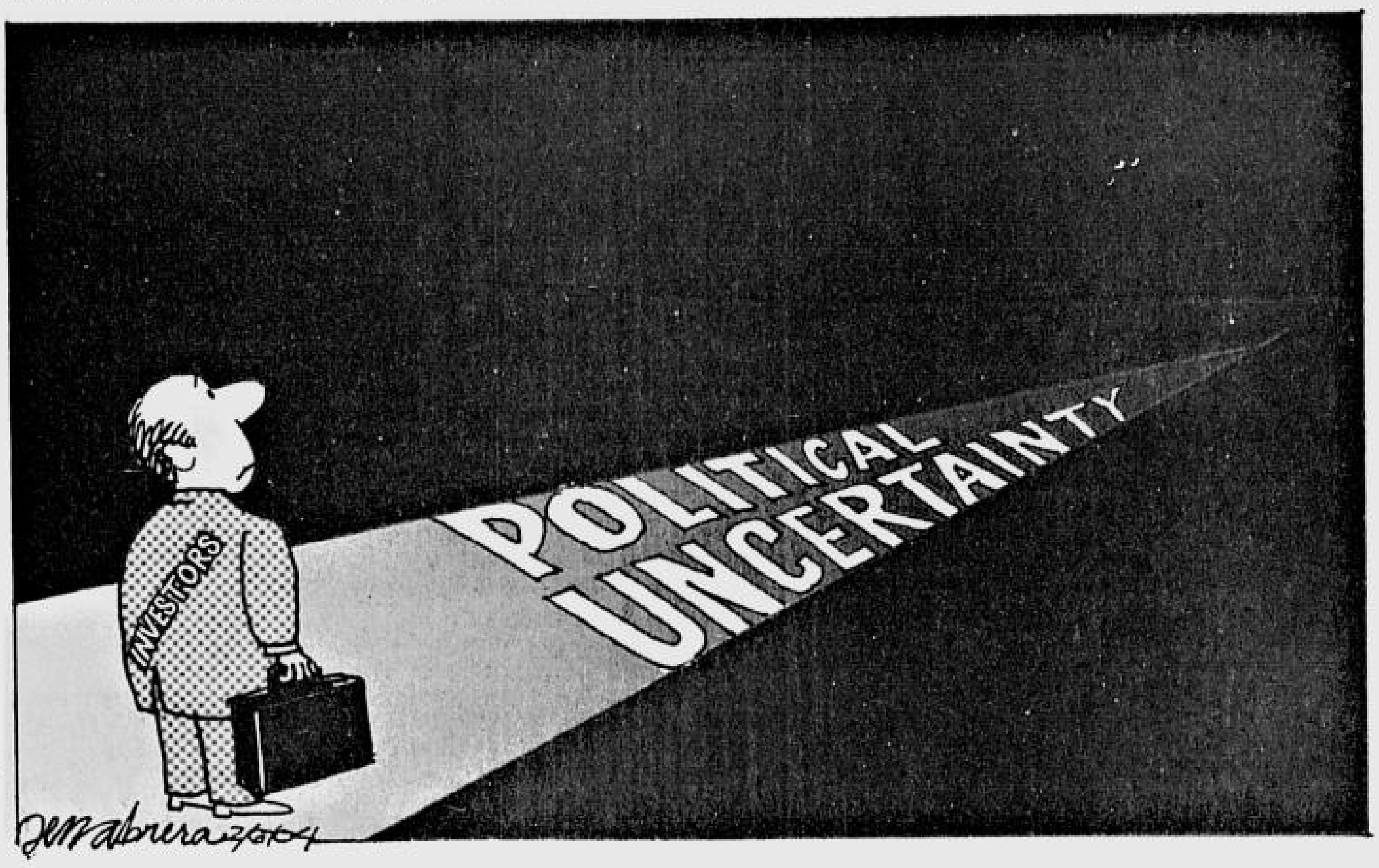
Polling has become the Frankenstein monster of our immature democracy. Starting as a measure of public awareness and preference, it has metamorphosed into the end-all and be-all of our electoral decision-making. Instead of checking an electoral aspirant's fitness for office, his or her competence, statesmanship, work ethic and vision, the electorate puts more premium on his or her chances for winning by the barometer of surveys, like a traveler who is bound for East but goes West because that's where the bandwagon is going.

Surveys can be productively used by aspirants for elective office as public or sectoral yardsticks regarding a number of issues pressing on our society. According to the public pulse on issues, aspirants may tailor-fit their political platforms. But even our most established polling firms hardly do such surveys because no one commissions them to do so. (Yes, there's market determinism in polling, and our professional pollster should recognize that the element of the market, or greed, gnaws at his claim of professionalism and integrity.)

In short, polls have become nothing more than a measure of a candidate's popularity and public acceptability. They're basically there to measure what young people call "*pogi* points." No wonder, the leading candidates are entertainers and our election approximates the ambience of a circus.

How has it come to this? The polling madness is but a symptom of our political malaise. It has been brought about by a dimwitted democracy that puts more premium on flash rather than substance and vision. Surveys in fact have taken over our democracy. Look at that political party that chose an actor who is not even its member as its standard bearer because he is very popular.

The polling craze has distorted our democracy, so that a twisted electorate will elect twisted candidates in May.



Ana and the King

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

FPJ just created two more celebrities with his admission that he has a love child. He seemed eager to get it out of his chest. When Jessica Soho asked him about the rumors, he readily admitted, saying: "*Totoo 'yon.*" After all, it is best to get it out now than later during the heat of the campaign when a rival can make a big thing out of it in an exposé before the media.

Coming on the heels of accusations that he is illegitimate, it was as if FPJ said, "Hey, don't look at me. It isn't I who is illegitimate. It's my son who is."

Now the media will track down the son, Ron-An, a good looking 22-year-old student of De la Salle University, and his mother Ana Marin, a movie starlet in the 1980s, and make them celebrities. Already, things are looking up for Ms Marin. Watch people flock to the Music Museum in Greenhills in San Juan where she will act in a sex comedy play this weekend just to ogle at "FPJ's former mistress." They might even rewrite the script a little to take advantage of her FPJ connection. And producers will be anxious to cast Ana and Ron-An in their movies. How about a movie or TV comedy with the three of them as lead stars? Its title: "Ana and the King."

Will the revelation hurt FPJ? Maybe, maybe not. It didn't hurt Erap who flaunts several wives and many children. It didn't hurt Ramon Revilla Sr. who admits to more illegitimate children than his fingers and toes put together, and became a two-time senator because he had so many relatives voting for him. It didn't hurt Lou Salvador Sr. who has so many illegitimate children he could have staffed a whole movie studio with them. And it certainly isn't hurting Dolphy. But you can be sure that it will cloud Da King's image as "Mr. Clean."

You can also be sure that he is not sterile as some rumors say just because he has no biological child with his wife Susan Roces. (They have an adopted daughter who is married and living in the United States.) "

Akala ko baog siya," said macho father Revilla, smiling happily. "*Hindi pala.*"

So that was what Erap meant when he told journalists last Sunday, "There's one more difference between FPJ and me. I'm transparent, *siya hindi. Sa mga chicks 'yon,*" he said laughing. "Off the record *'yan,*" he quickly added when they started writing the quotes down. They respected that off-the-record condition until the other day, when FPJ made his own admission.

* * *

While we're on the subject, things are not as smooth as it seems between San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and his half brother, former mayor and now KNP senatorial candidate Jinggoy Estrada. Despite Erap's efforts to patch things up and a well publicized shaking of hands between them, the two brothers are still not speaking to each other. The reason: politics.

JV inherited the mayoralty of San Juan when Jinggoy's third term as mayor expired. Jinggoy was irked when JV dismissed all his trusted men at City Hall. After three years, Jinggoy wanted to run again as mayor, but JV didn't want to give way. Jinggoy was all set to run against his brother, especially when he was bumped off the KNP senatorial ticket. Luckily, three candidates originally in the ticket jumped to rival tickets and vacancies were created. Jinggoy got one of them. Erap had to twist some arms for it.

That's not the end of the problem, however. Jinggoy is supporting a rival ticket for the San Juan polls. His vice mayoral candidate is his former vice mayor, basketball star Philip Cezar. JV's running mate is his current vice mayor. Jinggoy is also supporting rival candidates for councilor, but no mayoralty bet.

Running against JV is Erick San Juan, official Lakas candidate who thinks he should be mayor of San Juan because his surname is San Juan.

It would be interesting to see who is the real political kingpin of San Juan now that the original, Erap, has been sidelined. It would also be a test of strength between the two first ladies of San Juan: Sen. Loi Ejercito, Jinggoy's ma, and Guia Gomez, JV's mother.

* * *

The coming presidential election is turning out to be like a game of chess, with the King, the Queen, and a Rook as the top three contenders. Rook is only one letter away from Rock which of course stands for Roco.

Roco's camp says the people should choose The Rock over Da King and The Queen. After all, Jesus Himself chose a Rock upon which He built His Church. Which means even the followers of Bro. Eddie Villanueva should vote for The Rock.

The Rock's press release said the international investment community has no confidence in Da King who has yet to unveil his government policies, and in The Queen who has performed dismally in the past three years.

To which supporters of his rivals retorted: "*Pag ibinoto mo ang The Rock, para kang kumuha ng bato para ipukpok sa ulo mo.*"

* * *

To all Philets: Tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 7, will be the launching of the ruby anniversary celebration of the University of Sto. Tomas' Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. A Mass officiated by Father Rector Tamerlane Lana, O.P., is scheduled at 4 p.m. at Benavides Park fronting Espana Street. A short program and cocktails will follow.

Graduates of Philets, Artlets and Liberal Arts are enjoined to attend this event. For details, call UST Arts & Letters, 731-4003 or 731-3101 loc. 8220.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

FPJ: I am not a clone of Erap. We have different DNA.

Reporter: What's DNA?

FPJ: *Dami Ng Asawa.*

The movie in our minds

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

PROSPERO Pichay, a GMA ally, is amused. Fernando Poe Jr. has just said that contrary to rumor, he has had a good preparation for being president. He has a 40-year experience of playing the role of ordinary people, which allowed him to identify with them and their concerns.

That may be so, jokes Pichay, but he hasn't played the role of president. And even if he did, that doesn't assure the 80 million Filipinos will be safe in his hands. "Those roles were make-believe. The presidency is real. There are no scripts and take-two's."

I agree. The "Japanese" FPJ mowed down in his movies all stood up after the camera had panned through their still forms. Sometimes even before—the "dead" resurrecting and scurrying to the next battle scene to be mowed down again. But for that reason FPJ can always argue there are no take-two's either in his movies. Raw stock is costly, and who cares if the actors show a slip or two, even of this magnitude. And, of course, he can also argue that there are no scripts in his movies. In real life, of course, the convicts GMA wants to execute are not going to get up again.

But if show biz isn't the strongest argument for the presidency, Pichay might want to explain why his boss posed like a movie star in campaign posters in 1995 and 1998, when she ran for senator for the second time and vice president, respectively. Indeed, why she advertised herself as "the Nora Aunor of Philippine politics." He might want to explain why she went on to have herself photographed in a burning orphanage cradling a child, putting leis around the necks of *balikbayan* at the Naia, and variously condoling with the kin of Rico Yan, hobnobbing with F-4, and crashing into the concert of Mandy Moore.

Indeed, as scripts and make-believe roles go, he might want to explain the role his boss played in ousting Erap. No one saw her take to the streets, until late in the day when Erap's fate was sealed, and in the company of Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin, the better for her to point to them as the ringleaders if the thing should fail. Yet after she became President, she read a different script, one that had her secretly plotting against Erap and leading the charge when the time came. For all the improvised quality of the scripts in FPJ's movies, they sound more credible than the one GMA has been reading all this time. And for all the improbabilities of FPJ's roles in movies, they are more believable than GMA's role in life.

But whether or not GMA is guilty of the same thing Pichay accuses FPJ of, FPJ's pitch can't be so easily dismissed, or ignored. Pichay's taunts notwithstanding (they sound not unlike whistling in the dark), that pitch is bound to strike a chord in many listeners. Crispin Beltran belongs to a camp that resolutely demands "scientific" thought, that calls for "demythifying" history, and that defends the demarcation between illusion and reality, but he himself was not beyond saying he thought FPJ had strong nationalist sentiments in light of his role as Asedillo, a Filipino who fought the American occupation. He is by no means alone in thinking so. That is how many Filipinos see things. Our experience with Erap must show that our line between illusion and reality, myth and history, movies and real life, is a very thin one.

The question is, why so?

The obvious reason is that local movies themselves do not demarcate between role and actor, reel and real life. Most local movies anyway, particularly the action and comedy variety, though we do have serious ones that do. Local stars do not adjust to their roles, their roles adjust to them. They do not take on the persona written in scripts; scripts are written to take in their personas. FPJ is the quintessential example. He does not play roles, his roles play him. Like an Olympian god with many earthly manifestations, he is pretty much FPJ in all his movies, in the various guises of Daniel Barrion, Asedillo and Ang Panday.

But I will leave the students of Philippine cinema to amplify on or debate the point. I myself suspect there is a bigger reason for this. Which is that that is the way we see most everything in this country, through the prism of roles and scripts. That is the way we see the past, that is the way we see the present, that is the way we see the future. They are movies in our minds.

GMA's "war against terror" was but the most recent roadshow production trotted out before the public, and though it never became the blockbuster its producers wanted it to be, it had a pretty good run. It was a movie-in-the-mind that rested on the other movie-in-the-mind that had Filipinos fighting side by side with the Americans at Bataan and Corregidor, a movie-in-the-mind the educated themselves, who scoff at the masses' gullibility, refuse to question from fear of sacrilege. FPJ merely plucked that movie from the mind and brought it to the screen, making money off it.

What was Philippine history before people like Teodoro Agoncillio and Renato Constantino came along but a story about the country told by those who occupied it, particularly the Americans, which was the main inspiration for FPJ's movies? In fact, what is history today but largely the story of the elite, reinterpreted to give them the justification for being elite? History is not removed from biography in this country. It is allied to it, it complements it. Biographies do not just serve as vanity projects (though they can be that, too). They serve to tell a story about the way things were, and are. Which is also to say that reality is not removed from myth in this country, but it is allied to it, it complements it.

FPJ is confused about real life and reel life? Maybe so. But who isn't?

Celebrity

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LIKE the Philippines, a number of countries are holding general elections this year, putting them at the crossroads not only of leadership change, but more importantly, of crucial policy change. In April, Indonesians will directly elect their president for the first time since their independence. Prior to this electoral reform, their presidents were elected by members of the 500-odd People's Consultative Assembly.

This reform is taking place under President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who is facing as many, if not more, problems as President Macapagal-Arroyo. Whether the new direct presidential election will make Indonesia's democracy more robust and governable, only time will tell.

The new mode of electing the president provides for a run-off election in case no candidate wins a majority on the first ballot. This mechanism allows flexibility in coalition-making among parties and will avert gridlocks and avoid the election of presidents whose full electoral legitimacy can be challenged on the grounds that he was not picked by the majority.

In adopting the American presidential system, our founding fathers who framed our Constitution failed to install a run-off mechanism. This flaw became more pronounced with the advent of multiple parties and elections in which there were at least six presidential candidates.

With their innovation, the Indonesians seek to make their democracy more mass-based. But considering the complexity of Indonesian politics, the reform does not ensure that its next president will be more effective and wield stronger executive powers or reduce the influence of the Indonesian military in politics.

Pakistan is also moving back to democracy in this year's election after Gen. Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup a few years ago. Pakistan's return to democracy takes place against the background of the war against terrorism, an issue that has bitterly divided the Islamic country, which played a key role in the US-led invasion of Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden.

If the war on terror is a divisive issue in Pakistan, where Musharraf has aligned himself with US President George Bush in a global preemptive war against suspected terrorist havens, a similar alliance with Bush is as much an issue facing President Magapagal. In Australia, Prime Minister John Howard's support for the US invasion of Iraq has also come under fire with the approach of general elections. The Labor Party has found a new dynamic leader, Mark Latham, to challenge Howard not only on the Iraq policy but also on economic and fairer social-welfare issues.

In the US, the Democratic Party is almost halfway through the selection process (through caucuses and primaries) of a candidate to run against Bush. The Democratic primaries, now under way, have found someone who has demonstrated enough power to beat Bush at the polls. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, a decorated war hero in the Vietnam War, has the credentials to wrest away from Bush the patriotism issue in which he has wrapped himself after his decision to send US troops to Iraq. Kerry is not only beating his rivals in the race for the Democratic nomination but opinion polls are putting him ahead of Bush.

In the US, Iraq and the economy are driving the election and providing the themes around which the political debates revolve. Similarly, the election debates in Australia, Indonesia and Pakistan are dominated by thematic issues of security and the economy.

In both the US and Australia, elections are disputed by men of substance and serious purpose, who can be differentiated by their policies and programs, not by whether they are experienced and have the rudimentary education to learn on the job. Bush's foreign policy on Iraq might provoke intense policy disagreements but no one can question his intellectual equipment for the presidency.

US voters are not squeezed by a lack of choice. Kerry is from the Ivy League (Yale) and a war hero. One of his rivals for the Democratic nomination is Gen. Wesley Clark, former Nato commander and a Rhodes scholar. Policies divide them.

In all these elections, excluding the Philippines, leadership is contested by men and women with substance and respect for issues and policies. It is only in the Philippines, where movie actors and entertainment celebrities are playing a stellar role in the competition for the presidency where issues do dominate the theme of political discourse. In those countries, there is ample space for people of substance and gravity to vie for leadership.

Our elections this year are heavily laden with celebrities. Not only is a movie actor taking on a sitting President, the vice presidency is being contested by media celebrities: Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro. That Filipinos have turned to the entertainment industry to recruit national leaders points to a lack of seriousness in politics. It is also a symptom of the ascendancy of popularity, derived not from ability to deliver results in the management of public affairs, but from charisma based on media exposure.

The most incisive indictment of the bankruptcy of the celebrity world as the recruitment area for political leadership came from Legarda, who herself rode on her TV news celebrity to win a Senate seat. Stung by survey results showing De Castro beating her by a wide margin, Legarda questioned De Castro's intellectual credentials. She said, "It's not enough to be a man of the masses without brain, and not enough for a brain without a heart for the masses. A candidate must possess both."

Whether Legarda has both is not for her to say. Still she summed up succinctly the issue of brains or popularity. But she would have done better if she directed her attack at her presidential teammate.

Cory talks to young leaders

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"DELIGHTFUL!" was how former President Cory Aquino described her "encounter" Wednesday morning with at least 75 college students taking part in the 6th Ayala Young Leaders Congress, which ends today in Tagaytay.

"At first I was worried," she confessed to a few media people invited to cover the AYLC's opening session. "With an age gap of at least 50 years between us, I worried if I could still relate to them, and if they could still relate to me."

Consulting her advisers on what she could say to young people that they would find interesting, Ms Aquino was told: 'Just tell them your story." Indeed, the story of her marriage to Ninoy Aquino, his detention during martial law, their "happiest years" in exile in Boston, and then his assassination and her accession to power bore retelling, since, as she noted, "the oldest among you must have been just a year old when my husband...was killed by government soldiers."

With the theme "Leadership for Nation Building," and the AYLC being held for the first time so close to national elections, the congress expectedly focused on political leadership and what ordinary citizens, like the young leaders, could contribute to the country in their own way. But if they were expecting the keynote speaker to "name names" and endorse candidates for national office, or even to comment on one or more of the prominent contenders, then the young folk were bound to be disappointed. Ms Aquino staunchly refused to be drawn into politics, choosing to focus instead on her work with NGOs and specifically on the People Power People Movement she launched last year on the 20th death anniversary of Ninoy.

"I never planned to make politics my life," she explained, making it clear she was only too happy to walk away from the political scene the minute her term came to an end in 1992. And now, she said, her reticence was due to her desire "not to be misconstrued" as she goes around the country preaching the gospel of volunteerism and recognizing outstanding NGOs and community groups. "I don't want people to think that I have an agenda. I would be suspect wherever I would go if I were to support a candidate." (Except, she said, for her son Noynoy who is running for his third term as congressman.)

* * *

STILL, despite her resolve, Ms Aquino could not quite fully escape the shadow of politics.

What qualities make for an ideal president? asked a student from the Ateneo. "People expect too much of the president," Cory noted, recalling a book she read on American presidents that said Americans wanted no less than a leader bearing the best traits of all their past presidents. "Can all these qualities really be found in one person?" Ms Aquino wondered aloud. Yet, of all the desirable qualities people want to see in their leader—intelligence, honesty, integrity, industry, charisma—what matters most, she said, is sincerity.

One young man asked Ms Aquino to play a version of her TV host daughter Kris' show, "Game Ka Na Ba?" "The most important trait of a leader is: A) commitment, B) competence, C) character," he declared. "Oh, C, character," Ms Aquino quickly replied. "Without it the two (others) would not be possible."

Is she optimistic about the outcome of this year's elections? "Presidents come and go," she declared. "What's important is that we all unite and help whoever is elected. Then let's forget politics and focus instead on real people power. Get involved in your communities!"

* * *

THE YOUTH, the former president said in her talk, "have a compelling reason to get involved in a partisan way in the May elections." And that reason is that they have the power to decide the outcome, what with voters aged 18 to 35 comprising almost 62 percent of the total number of registered voters. "That makes you a powerful and crucial bloc in the coming polls. You must therefore make the candidates listen to you. You must communicate to them your concerns, your agenda for government, your idealism and your aspirations. The youth, voting as one, could actually elect our next president."

And when the heat and noise of the electoral battle subsides, said Ms Aquino, "we must strive for unity and reconciliation...because after the (passions) have died down, our people will still be poor. They will still need health services, livelihood, education, housing, and most important of all, empowerment. And government will still be hard put to deliver on these."

When one student asked her what she thought the "main problem" of the Philippines was, Ms Aquino replied: "You should tell me. You know what you want, focus on that. That's why I'm here, to hear from you."

* * *

TALKING, sharing and searching for solutions is, after all, what the Ayala Young Leaders Congress is all about.

In the six years since the AYLC was first held, said Ayala chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, they have managed to form a network of young leaders from all over the Philippines, each of whom has made his or her mark in a particular field of endeavor and are slowly rising up the ranks, even as they seek to provide a "support mechanism" for each other through a website, e-mail and regular get-togethers.

Zobel stressed that in their search for AYLC participants, who are recommended by their school heads then undergo screening conducted by Ayala executives, they seek to achieve geographical balance in the choice of young leaders, believing that it's important to maintain a truly national dialogue, and that "the exposure alone" is already worth so much to the provincial participants.

With some luck, the AYLC alumni could very well become a critical mass of a thoughtful, active citizenry.

People in our lives

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SINCE most of my friends are much older than I—a handful are old enough to be my grandparents—I have this glimpse of a future. Mind you it is not a pretty sight: doctors, hospitals, failing eyesight, bladder or memory, sitting alone and waiting for the regular Sunday brunch when children and grandchildren come to visit. Many of my friends are gone, but I didn't pay much attention until two classmates—Leo Daez and Ken Ferrer, both fit and athletic—passed away. Their untimely deaths gave me more reason to indulge in extra helpings of *chiharon bulaklak*.

As a historian, the whole idea of time, life and death seems like a long unending stream. How one uses time, life—and even death—is what makes the difference.

While we will never come to know everyone, we must be grateful for the people whose paths we have crossed. The first time I had indirect contact with Salvador "Doy" Laurel was not very pleasant. I was then working for the Sunday Express Magazine. It was 1986. I was young and brash and, following the mood of Edsa I, irreverent and iconoclastic. Someone, probably Laurel or his wife Celia, wanted to speak with my editor on the phone. A simple act became complicated when, instead of using the universal telephone greeting "hello" and asking to speak with the editor, the female voice at the other end declared officiously "This is the Office of Vice President Laurel." My reaction was swift. I blurted out, "So what?" I did not care for a reply. I just hung up.

In retrospect, when I came to know the man behind the office, I realized it was rude of me to behave that way. Most of the Laurel secretaries have since become familiar and I'm too ashamed to ask who the poor person was if only to apologize. Laurel then and now was pa]rt of contemporary history, a face and name I see in newspapers and TV news. We are all familiar with his famous smile that didn't quite agree with me. It was a mischievous smile and now that he is but ashes in a brass urn, all we have are photographs showing that same smile—actually a smirk—I miss the most.

Appointed to the National (later Philippine) Centennial Commission in 1992, Laurel tried to establish contact with me in 1993. I was a cloistered Benedictine novice then. As it was a time of enforced reflection and separation from the world, I was not allowed to venture beyond the cloister. So, I gave up this column space.

To complete their separation from the world, Benedictine novices are denied newspapers, radio and television, the highlight of their lives being prayer, meals and mopping the floor. I don't remember how he got through. Obviously, the Laurel name and office worked wonders with the porters. Thus after a year of isolation, my first trip outside the cloister was not even to visit my family but to a meeting at Laurel's office in Ortigas Center. Here Laurel fed the deprived (and depraved) young monk a Thai lunch and, over chili and conversation, we became fast friends.

He enjoyed my friendly approach to history, and perhaps it was the lawyer in him—also the frustrated writer and historian—that made him vulnerable to historical controversy. He was, too, supportive of a rewriting of our history. He always provided a sympathetic but critical ear, asking questions that made me do more research or rethink assumptions I had held valid. During our long conversations, I silently wished I had been born 30 years earlier so I could have known him in his prime and could have seen the Philippine Senate in a past age that now seems legendary.

In the past two years, I had been wishing I were the NHI chair during the time he was the NCC chair. We could have made a good team, but then what he left us in 1998 was a short fleeting moment when Filipinos were actually proud to be Filipinos. Despite the criticisms hurled against the Philippine Centennial and the dark cloud that hung over Laurel's last days, it was his vision to get the nation to look back to our long colonized history and find a high point. The Philippine Centennial at least led us to see the Filipino capacity for greatness.

Now Doy Laurel is history—literally—and while others mourn the passing of yet another historical figure, I cherish fond memories of him, even as I maintain lungs tainted with nicotine. Laurel gave me my first pipe and my first whiff of mild mango-flavored tobacco. Thus, with each breath I take from my pipe, non-smokers warn me that I am taking one more step closer to the grave. But knowing that friends and relatives have gone before me to "the other side" wherever it is, it makes the thought of death seems less scary.

Another person who recently went ahead of us was Dr. Alicia Gamboa, mother of the late Doreen Fernandez. My memory of her is always of the feisty, white-haired *lola* in sneakers who pushed her way through a thick crowd in Pulilan many years ago to see the kneeling carabaos up close. Younger people gave up because of the heat and the crowd, but she wanted to see "those darn carabaos." Trailing after her was a lesson in patience and determination. And the lesson learned has sustained me on many lonely days spent in libraries and archives digging up the materials that go into this column.

All people who cross our path influence us in more ways than we can imagine.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Your cap is a passport

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"YOUR cap is a passport" is the title of a chapter in Catherine Ceniza Choy's "Empire of Care" drawing from an ad in the 1960s recruiting Filipina nurses to work in the United States. The book was first published by Duke University and has been reprinted by the Ateneo de Manila.

Choy's book focuses on the nurses' migration as part of Filipino American history, but it offers many insights to understand the current wave—some might call it a tsunami—of nursing brain drain.

The word "empire" in Choy's title reflects her argument that the migration of nurses is a direct consequence of the US imperial adventure in the Philippines, during actual colonial occupation as well as after we regained independence in 1946.

Under Spain, women were largely excluded from formal education, especially at the university level. The University of Santo Tomas did have some midwifery training but that was about it for women's higher education.

The Americans introduced nursing education as part of a larger project to establish a public health system, but there was a curious gender dimension to all this. The Americans looked at nursing mainly as a female profession, and saw its institutionalization not just as part of public health but as a way of bringing in "civilization" because, for them, the division of labor by gender was one hallmark of progress in society.

Curiously, the initial response from Filipinos to this new profession was one of resistance, mainly from the Filipino elite, who saw nursing tasks as demeaning. But eventually, nursing did become an attractive profession as it became a passport to the United States, first through limited *pensionado* scholarships during the American occupation and later, in 1948, through an Exchange Visitors Program, established by the Americans to win hearts and minds during the Cold War.

The exchange program was meant to be temporary, a chance to upgrade one's professional skills, but Filipino nurses soon found they could stay on after the fellowship and work toward permanent residence in Mother America. Between 1956 and 1969, over 11,000 Filipino nurses participated in this program. In the Philippines, nursing schools sprouted like mushrooms.

Brain drain, involving physicians and nurses, was inevitable. In 1965, the Americans abolished the racist national origins system of immigration that had favored Europeans. Suddenly, doors opened wide for Asians. Between 1966 and 1970, 3,222 Filipino nurses and 2,813 physicians migrated to the United States while another 3,222 nurses and 2,040 physicians entered on exchange visas. By 1967, we were the world's top exporter of nurses to the United States, with nursing schools sprouting like mushrooms. In 1950, there were only 17 nursing schools in the country. By 1970, there were 140.

The reasons for migration were clearly economic. In 1971, a staff nurse could earn the equivalent of P60,000 a year in the United States compared to P4,200 back home. But there was more to the migration than economics. The training system for Filipino doctors and nurses was oriented toward the United States, and this was done deliberately. In the 1970s, the Marcos administration began to look at the export of Filipino labor as a dollar earner.

In 1973, Ferdinand Marcos even addressed the Philippine Nurses Association during their annual convention and announced that his government favored the export of nurses: "We intend to take care of [Filipino nurses] but as we encourage this migration, I repeat, we will now encourage the training of all nurses because, as I repeat, this is a market that we should take advantage of. Instead of stopping the nurses from going abroad, why don't we produce more nurses? If they want one thousand nurses, we produce a thousand more."

There were just so many other reasons why nurses left. No doubt, our entire educational system had made nurses for America with images of snow and a good life. Choy's book includes interviews with older Filipina nurses who left many years ago, and it's interesting to note how they talk, too, about disappointments in the Philippines in relation to their profession. A common complaint was the favoritism in their work places, which limited professional advancement.

Choy also proposes that migration offered a way out of gender strictures. In the Philippines, nurses faced many limitations as women. The United States offered not just higher wages but also a new life of independence.

No doubt, there were many clashes between expectations and reality. If nurses had to deal with favoritism in the Philippines, they were now "coolies in the (American) medical world," having to put in long hours and dealing with all kinds of racial discrimination.

In 1966, Filipina nurses made headlines when Richard Speck murdered eight student nurses in Chicago, including two Filipinas. Speck had managed to get into a house rented by the nurses, bound them and then murdered them one by one. The lone survivor was a Filipina, Corazon Amurao. There were misogyny and racism involved here: Speck had problems with previous marriages, and had an ax to grind against Asian women, supposedly because he had contracted syphilis from, in his words, "some kind of Oriental."

Choy also describes the controversial case of Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, who were convicted in 1977 of murdering patients in an American hospital. Organized efforts of Filipino and American support groups led to an appeal, and the nurses were eventually acquitted, but there were bitter memories of how the trial had surfaced very strong racist attitudes even from fellow nurses.

Today we see many of the themes in Choy's book being replayed, with a few variations. Recruiting agencies offer a US green card (permanent residence) for nurses. Others are recruiting for new markets, such as Britain and other European countries. The demand is so great that even Filipino doctors are now going into nursing schools.

As I put down the book, I did wonder if perhaps all the "push" factors described—from economics to the lack of opportunities for professional advancement, to gender discrimination—may in fact be conspiring to drive not just nurses but Filipinos in general to migrate. Just a thought.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE PPI
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Democracy at dinner table

AFTER watching a local newscast, I can't help but think after the newscaster said: "*Ang* Ramos family *ay nagkawatakwatak dahil sa pulitika.*" Is it really a big deal? Shouldn't they be proud because they have the balls to make a decision in that runs counter to that of their relatives?

Democracy should not only exist in media. I believe that it should also be exercised at the dinner table. But I have yet to meet a family whose members are voting for different candidates running for the same position and expressing at the top of their voice their sentiments for making their respective choices, and still enjoy a liter of ice cream while watching a DVD together.

I think we have forgotten what our forefathers died for. If my memory serves me right, even the Rizal siblings had their differences. In this era of political dynasties, is the rule now the exception? Isn't it time that healthy diversity among family members and relatives was welcomed and praised rather than mocked?

—MAOTSE J. ROBLES,
19 Boston Tech.,
University Hills Subdivision,
Kalookan City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Pleasing everyone

IS being a Philippine president all a matter of pleasing everyone all the time?

Trite and hackneyed as it may seem, the question practically describes the situation President Macapagal is in right now. Despite the decisiveness she has displayed in handling significant issues, be it illegal drugs, peace and order, food, jobs, or even livelihood, there always appears a seemingly all-knowing critic with a mouthful to say.

Like for example, when GMA declared a moratorium on the death penalty last year, sectors in favor of the death penalty cried foul as they chided the administration for losing its teeth in enforcing the "full brunt of the law." And now, after GMA lifted that same moratorium only a few days ago, members of the Catholic Church, headed by Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas, during the Mass in celebration of the Edsa II anniversary, called the lifting an act of "apatheism" on the part of the President.

Aba, ako man ang maging presidente, saan ako lulugar niyan?

—ALDEN ZEMBRANO,
9 Winston Drive,
Quezon City

When does one become a member of Caritas Health?

I HAVE been a member of the Caritas Health Shield Inc. for a year now. Many priests like me are its members but few of us seem to have availed themselves of it. This may be due to the fact that our schedule is so demanding that we don't find time to take advantage of its health services.

Last Nov. 17, 2003, during our monthly gathering, a group from this health care program came and stole some moments to remind us to make use of our membership privileges. Here comes January and I needed immediate treatment for some pain.

The pain worried me and so I asked if after receiving medication I could have my APE, i.e., annual physical examination, just to know and assess my health condition. I got the shock of my life when I was told that I could not undergo APE since the the transfer of membership from a certain priest to me has not yet been processed. I got exasperated considering that it has been a year since I became a member.

I am wondering, why it would take them so long to do such a simple task and why I haven't received until now my identification card.

—FR. JERRY R. OBLEPIAS,
Bishop's Residence,
San Pablo City, Laguna

Overpopulation: a recipe for disaster

THERE are still those who think that the Philippines is not overpopulated. I have listed below the 2002 population levels of the world's richest and most advanced nations (leaving out only Japan and the United States) in comparison to ours:

Philippines—83 million, Germany—81 million, United Kingdom—59 million, France—59 million, Italy—57 million, Spain—39 million, Canada—31 million, Australia—19 million (Source: US Census Bureau)

The Philippines has already surpassed the population density of China, and in nine years, will equal that of India. With a projected poverty level of near 50 percent, this is a sure recipe for disaster. We are already feeling the heat this early—high unemployment, huge budget deficit, exodus of people, lack of housing and water, poor health services and substandard public education system—to name a few.

We should not worry about the Church's stand on family planning. History has proven that it is not infallible. It took them 400 years before acknowledging that Galileo was right all along—that the Earth revolves around the Sun, and not vice versa. It condemned the ideas of Darwin as heresy until the discovery of dinosaur fossils. Even in Italy, where the Vatican is located, family planning is sanctioned and encouraged by the government. How long must we wait until the Church realizes that it is wrong on this issue? It might be too late by then.

—HENRY SISON
LPL Condominium,
Eisenhower Street, San Juan, Metro Manila

'Tribune of the people'

LAST Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004, I attended the Supreme Court en banc hearing on the issue of the provisional rate increase of P0.12/kwh granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission to Meralco, but restrained by the high court on petition of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC). Counsels for all parties were given 20 minutes each to make their initial arguments.

The hearing started at 11:30 a.m. and lasted until almost 7 p.m. without any break. In that hearing, I saw the seriousness of all the justices who listened intently and patiently to the individual arguments of the four lawyers, after which they tested the theses propounded with questions meant to test their strength and validity.

If anything, the proceedings proved the value in having an "activist" Supreme Court that stands up for the people in the face of regulatory default, to the chagrin of organized business like PIPPA, AmCham, European Chamber of Commerce, Makati Business Club, etc.

But what struck me most was when Justice Reynato Puno asked Assistant Solicitor General (ASG) Nestor Ballasillo whether the Office of the Solicitor General sees itself as the tribune of the people and the ASG replied in the affirmative. This particular question opened the gate for a flurry of questions from the other justices asking what the OSG has so far done in showing that they are indeed the "tribune of the people."

In fairness to the SolGen, they had the candor to raise at least six "lapses" of ERC in granting the provisional authority (lack of notice and hearing; asset revaluation in three years; consumer burden on capex; disregard of consumer opposition; inaction on production of documents; unresolved motions for reconsideration) which they promised to press with ERC.

Unfortunately, the good and honest ASG was not able to convince the justices that it was able to carry the mandate. The court had to suggest the following:

1. The OSG should appoint a senior lawyer to the ERC hearings.
2. The OSG should file an opposition to the utilities' petitions for rate increase.
3. The OSG should file an omnibus motion with ERC to the effect that ERC should consult with OSG before issuing a provisional rate increase.
4. The OSG should ask the Commission on Audit to evaluate the voluminous financial submissions of applicant Meralco.

All these suggestions were accepted by the ASG. We hope they will be part of its memorandum to be submitted to the Supreme Court. The consumers can now look up to a new government agency championing their cause as their confidence in the ERC has waned particularly in regard to Meralco's applications.

—PETE L. ILAGAN, president,
National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms,
Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Gardens,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

SAMSUNG
Our treat.
SAMSUNG
STARBUCKS COFFEE
Tall Mocha Frappuccino
Short Latte
DigitAll blend
Beautiful Shape, True Color
SGH-X100
Sleek Design
MMS
65,000 Vivid Color Screen
Downloadable Game (Java)
40 Chord Polyphonic Ringtones and Melody
SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited.
www.samsungelectronics.ph

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. For every purchase of SGH-X100, we will treat you 2 Starbucks beverages which you can redeem with gift vouchers (found inside the box) at any Starbucks retail location nationwide.
2. Gift vouchers are not exchangeable for cash, or any other drink and are valid only until May 31, 2004.
3. Promo period is from February 1-29, 2004.
4. Promo is valid only at all First Asia Mobile dealers and Globe Telecom Business Centers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0165 Series of 2004

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 722-7777 Loc. 254 • Fax No. 721-6323 • For Customer Care Centre, dial 1-800-10SAMSUNG

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Education to lose ₱4B under reenacted budget

By Carlito Pablo and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Education (DepEd) stands to lose P4 billion needed to construct school buildings, hire new teachers and transfer over 200,000 public school students to private schools this year if Congress reverts to a reenacted budget, DepEd officials warned yesterday.

"A reenacted budget driven by political considerations is anti-developmental as far as education is concerned. If the citizenry allows political interest to override what is good for the development of the country, then we cannot hope to deliver on quality in any area," Secretary Edilberto De Jesus and Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Under a reenacted budget, DepEd will lose P1 billion for the construction of additional school buildings in schools with the largest classroom shortages nationwide, Luz told the INQUIRER.

At P400,000 per classroom, this translates into a loss of 2,500 classrooms, Luz added.

The DepEd will also lose P970.5 million for much needed 10,000 new teachers and 1,666 new principals, he said.

The P1.25 billion in government assistance to students and teachers in private education that will allow the DepEd to effectively transfer 200,000 students from public schools to private schools to help decongest public high schools will also be lost, he said.

The DepEd has been migrating students from public high schools to private schools as it is a cheaper alternative to building additional classrooms and hiring new teachers, Luz explained.

The DepEd would also lose P547.5 million in additional maintenance and other operating expenses for public elementary and secondary schools, and P117 million in government counterpart to the P1 billion in Japanese and Australian grant-in-aid for education for Mindanao, according to Luz.

In the past four years, the annual increase in the budget for the education sector has been limited to around one percent, less than the growth in population, he said.

This, he added, explained why education spending has been falling farther and farther behind and the shortages have been increasing.

If the 2004 budget is passed, it would have been the first time that the education budget would grow by more than 4 percent in one year, he said.

Rep. Edmund Reyes Jr. (Lakas, Marinduque), chair of the House committee on basic education and culture, said with the reenactment of the 2003 budget, the education sector would have to work with the same P106.4 billion budget it received in 2003, rather than the P111 billion it was supposed to receive in 2004.

"There is no doubt that the quality of education will suffer tremendously," Reyes said.

Reyes warned that with the yearly increase in the number of public elementary and high school students, the Department of Education will have to "distribute the same size of funds."

Reyes lamented that the budget impasse between the House and Senate has "turned into an ugly mud-slinging contest that will only result in again hearing the same complaints from students, parents and teachers this June."

"Pity on us all," Reyes said.

Reyes yesterday filed a bill calling for the approval of a P4 billion supplemental budget for 2004.

Congress will adjourn session today and convene again after the May 10 national and local elections.

PNP chief says he'll vote for GMA

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, has made known his choice for the May 10 presidential elections.

Ebdane said on Tuesday his vote would go to President Macapagal-Arroyo but this does not necessarily mean that the 200,000 policemen in the country would follow his preference and vote like a bloc.

"It depends on the thinking of policemen. If you were to ask me, of course, I'll vote for the President," he said.

Ebdane was guest during the program marking the 13th founding anniversary of the Central Luzon police.

Ebdane, when asked how his decision would matter in the required impartiality of policemen in the elections, said the PNP is "apolitical."

"It is mandated by the Constitution to be fair. I would not say neutral because there is (something wrong with) that (word). When you're neutral ... you would not take sides. I would say be fair. We would go after those who violate the law and provide assistance to victims," he said.

"But let us not remove the fact that each policeman also is a voter. And he has to make a choice when he writes on the ballot," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

'Chicken fest' held to ward off bird flu scare

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The provincial government and chicken producers in Negros Occidental held a "chicken festival" to boost consumption following a 30-percent drop in sales due to the bird flu scare.

The festival was held on Wednesday morning at the provincial capitol where chicken cooked in various ways were displayed.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and some provincial officials joined the chicken producers in eating the products to show to the public that the chicken were safe to eat.

There are four chicken producers in Negros Occidental—San Miguel Corp., Vitarich, Swift and Bounty Fresh. They supply a million kilos of chicken to the province a month, which is worth P80 million.

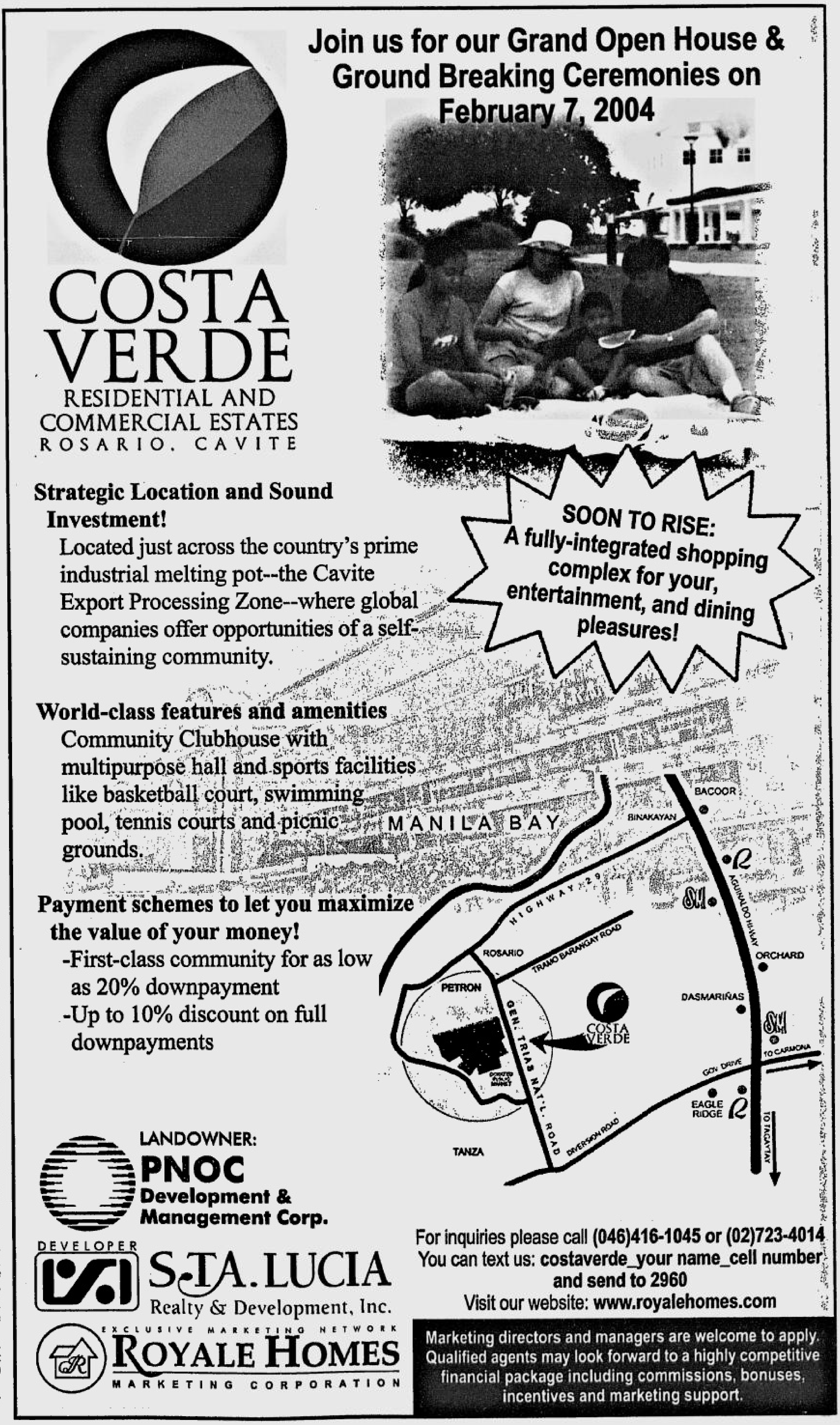
Although the city was known for its sumptuous chicken barbecue, producers complained of a drop in sales following the reported outbreak of bird flu in some parts of Asia.

Vietnam was worst affected with 11 people confirmed to have died of the virus.

Ruel Yap Aballe, the area sales manager for poultry by the San Miguel Purefoods in Western Visayas, said there was a shortage of chicken late last year but even if the supply has normalized, demand for chicken dropped in the third week of January because of the bird flu scare.

Antonio Utzurrum of Bounty Fresh said their sales also dropped by about 30 percent early in January and went down further to 50 percent last week.

He, however, said there had been an improvement in sales since.


COSTA VERDE
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ESTATES
ROSARIO, CAVITE

Join us for our Grand Open House & Ground Breaking Ceremonies on February 7, 2004

Strategic Location and Sound Investment!
Located just across the country's prime industrial melting pot--the Cavite Export Processing Zone--where global companies offer opportunities of a self-sustaining community.

SOON TO RISE: A fully-integrated shopping complex for your, entertainment, and dining pleasures!

World-class features and amenities
Community Clubhouse with multipurpose hall and sports facilities like basketball court, swimming pool, tennis courts and picnic grounds.

Payment schemes to let you maximize the value of your money!
-First-class community for as low as 20% downpayment
-Up to 10% discount on full downpayments

LANDOWNER:
PNOC Development & Management Corp.

DEVELOPER
STA. LUCIA Realty & Development, Inc.

EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK
ROYALE HOMES MARKETING CORPORATION

For inquiries please call (046)416-1045 or (02)723-4014
You can text us: costaverde_your name_cell number and send to 2960
Visit our website: www.royalehomes.com

Marketing directors and managers are welcome to apply. Qualified agents may look forward to a highly competitive financial package including commissions, bonuses, incentives and marketing support.

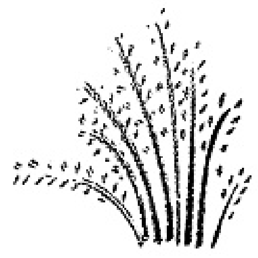
In observance of the
International Year of Rice 2004

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RICE 2004

GLORIA RICE

Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

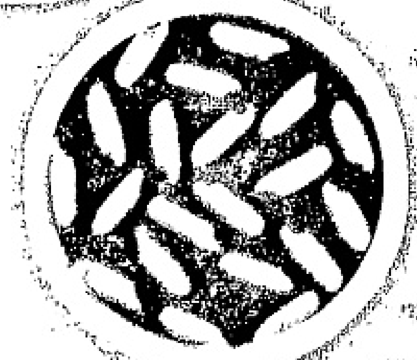
Masaganang Ani



Masaganang Buhay

Tulong ng Pamahalaan sa Magsasakang Pilipino ang mas pinalakas at pinaunlad na agrikultura:

- ✓ Pagsulong sa *Gloria* Rice — mga uri ng hybrid rice tulad ng Mestizo, SL-8, Magilas 500, Bigante at Rizalina 28 na mas malaki ang ani at mas matibay sa peste
- ✓ Pagbibigay ng tulong sa mga magsasaka sa pagbili ng mga binhi at pataba sa lupa
- ✓ Pagpapatubig sa karagdagang 58,787 ektarya at pagsasaayos ng patubig sa 538,817 ektarya sa iba't-ibang lugar sa bansa
- ✓ Pagsusulong ng bagong patakaran at kaisipan upang lalong mapaunlad ang pagpapatubig sa lahat ng kabukiran sa bansa
- ✓ Pamamahagi ng gamit pang-ani (post-harvest facilities and machines) tulad ng dryers, seed cleaning machines pati mga warehouse na umabot sa kabuuang P53 milyon
- ✓ Pagpapahiram ng mahigit P4 bilyon bilang kapital na pinakinabangan ng mahigit 1 milyong magsasaka
- ✓ Pagtulong sa pagbebenta ng *Gloria* Rice sa pamamagitan ng trade fairs, exhibits, selling missions at pagbebenta sa Internet
- ✓ Research at development — pagsasaliksik at pagtuturo ng makabagong teknolohiya sa pagsasaka
- ✓ Karagdagang 600,000 trabaho sa kanayunan mula Abril 2001 hanggang Abril 2003



Ang layunin ay sapat na pagkain sa bawat mesa.

"Dati ay umaani ako ng 100 kaban sa bawat ektarya. Nang ako ay gumamit ng Gloria Rice, naging 292 kabans na. Halos triple ng dati kong ani! Mahigit sa P90,000 ang kinita ko kada ektarya. Napakaganda talaga gamitin ang *Gloria* Rice, sa katunayan nga ang mga magsasaka sa Mindoro ay nais na ring magtanim nito. Para kumita din sila ng malaki at guminhawa ang kanilang buhay."

Ernesto Pablo
Highest Yielder
Rizal, Occidental Mindoro

"Simula nang nagtanim ako ng *Gloria* Rice, umaani ako ng mahigit 200 kaban sa isang ektarya na kumpara sa dating 100 kaban lang. Dahil dito, nagkaroon ako ng bagong makinaryang panglinang sa bukid at nakapundar pa ako ng mga inahing baboy.

Laking pasasalamat namin talaga sa *Gloria* Rice ng ating Presidente Gloria Macapagal. Dahil dun sumasagana ang aming ani, at buhay!"

Benigno Ramos
4th Highest Yielder in the Philippines
Bo. Nalinga, Pila, Laguna

"Ang teknolohiya na dinulot ng *Gloria* Rice ay nakapagpatunay na ang pagsasaka ngayon ay isang mainam na hanap-buhay!"

Norma Lozada
2nd Highest Yielder
Hagonoy Davao del Sur

Gloria Rice, Doble Ani, Doble Kita.

Department of Agriculture
Tel Nos. 9256741 to 65
loc. 236

Ginintuang Masaganang Ani
Rice Program
925-2152

PhilRice
Philippine Rice Research Institute
(044) 456-0285

President's Priority Programs and ODA Projects

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In observance of the
International Year of Rice 2004

GLORIA RICE

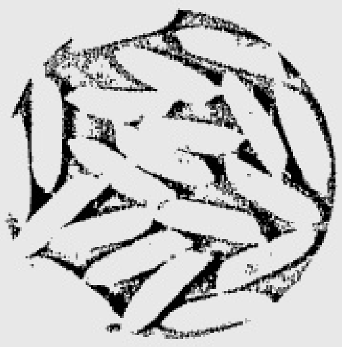
Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

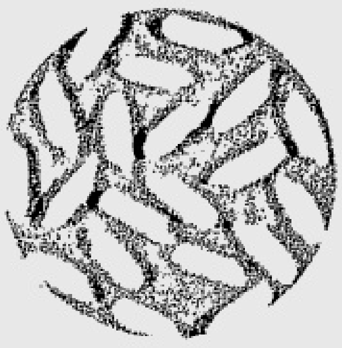
Masaganang Ani

Masaganang Buhay

Tulong ng Pamahalaan sa Magsasakang Pilipino ang mas pinalakas at pinaunlad na agrikultura:

- ✓ Pagsulong sa *Gloria* Rice — mga uri ng hybrid rice tulad ng Mestizo, SL-8, Magilas 500, Bigante at Rizalina 28 na mas malaki ang ani at mas matibay sa peste
- ✓ Pagbibigay ng tulong sa mga magsasaka sa pagbili ng mga binhi at pataba sa lupa
- ✓ Pagpapatubig sa karagdagang 58,787 ektarya at pagsasaayos ng patubig sa 538,817 ektarya sa iba't-ibang lugar sa bansa
- ✓ Pagsusulong ng bagong patakaran at kaisipan upang lalong mapaunlad ang pagpapatubig sa lahat ng kabukiran sa bansa
- ✓ Pamamahagi ng gamit pang-ani (post-harvest facilities and machines) tulad ng dryers, seed cleaning machines pati mga warehouse na umabot sa kabuuang P53 milyon
- ✓ Pagpapahiram ng mahigit P4 bilyon bilang kapital na pinakinabangan ng mahigit 1 milyong magsasaka
- ✓ Pagtulong sa pagbebenta ng *Gloria* Rice sa pamamagitan ng trade fairs, exhibits, selling missions at pagbebenta sa Internet
- ✓ Research at development — pagsasaliksik at pagtuturo ng makabagong teknolohiya sa pagsasaka
- ✓ Karagdagang 600,000 trabaho sa kanayunan mula Abril 2001 hanggang Abril 2003





Ang layunin ay sapat na pagkain sa bawat mesa.

"Dati ay umaani ako ng 100 kaban sa bawat ektarya. Nang ako ay gumamit ng Gloria Rice, naging 292 kabans na. Halos triple ng dati kong ani! Mahigit sa P90,000 ang kinita ko kada ektarya. Napakaganda talaga gamitin ang *Gloria* Rice, sa katunayan nga ang mga magsasaka sa Mindoro ay nais na ring magtanim nito. Para kumita din sila ng malaki at guminhawa ang kanilang buhay."

"Simula nang nagtanim ako ng *Gloria* Rice, umaani ako ng mahigit 200 kaban sa isang ektarya na kumpara sa dating 100 kaban lang. Dahil dito, nagkaroon ako ng bagong makinaryang panglinang sa bukid at nakapundar pa ako ng mga inahing baboy.

Laking pasasalamat namin talaga sa *Gloria* Rice ng ating Presidente Gloria Macapagal. Dahil dun sumasagana ang aming ani, at buhay!"

"Ang teknolohiya na dinulot ng *Gloria* Rice, ay nakapagpatunay na ang pagsasaka ngayon ay isang mainam na hanap-buhay!"

***Gloria* Rice. Doble Ani, Doble Kita.**

Department of Agriculture

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

PHILRICE
Philippine Rice Research Institute

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Operation to remove ship from Apo reef starts

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Despite the owner's promise to start retrieval operations last week, an environment official admitted that the actual salvage operations to cull the capsized MV Island Explorer away from the protected coral reef area in Mindoro started only last Sunday.

Rodel Boyles, area superintendent of the Protected Areas Management Bureau (PAMB), in a phone interview said the leisure diving firm Scuba World Inc. (SWI) had contracted shipping company Parola Marines to head the retrieval operations to haul out the MV Island Explorer, a diving ship which ran aground at the Apo Menor Reef off the waters of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro on Dec. 21.

Residents and members of fisherfolk group Pamalakaya have reported oil spilling from the ship two weeks ago.

Boyles said SWI officials and the head of the retrieval team have informed them of the plan to remove the ill-fated ship late last week.

In a meeting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Jan. 23, SWI had originally promised to begin with the retrieval operations on Monday, Jan. 26.

Boyles assured that PAMB officials are overseeing the operations to ensure that "it would be done with minimal damages to the reef." He said the procedure would last for about 10-15 days.

"We have already discussed with Parola Marines officials how to go about the operations without doing great damage to the reef. I think it's clear that they should hull the ship in the direction where it initially capsized to minimize the damages (the operation) could cause," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Boyles said the recovery operation would start by siphoning out the remaining fuel from containers inside the capsized sea vessel. He said there are still around 5,000 liters of fuel inside MV Island Explorer.

He said the retrieval team would then try to send the ship afloat and pull it out of the reef area.

The official said that the SWI, owned by Juan Wee, has promised to foot all the expenses, including the assessment of the coral reefs which will determine the actual damage that the incident brought. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AN UNIDENTIFIED volunteer releases newly hatched turtles to the sea in San Antonio, Zambales. TONETTE OREJAS

Zambales volunteers, DENR execs give tiny turtles chance to survive

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales—Some 105 Olive Ridley turtles, the smallest of their kind in the Philippines, crawled back to this part of the South China Sea on Jan. 28, their return made auspicious by the hasty gushes of waves and by the sun in its early dusk stage.

The tiny black turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) scrambled to shore and upon the embrace of the bubbling waves, they were finally gone to the sea.

Nearby, more than 30 people watched, bidding the turtles farewell and offering prayers for their survival. The well-wishers were residents of Sitio Carusipan in Barangay San Miguel here, officials and staff of the Environment Protection of Asia (EPA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The occasion was actually a celebration of life and nature, according to Regidor de Leon, DENR regional executive director.

"Thank you for giving the turtles a chance to live," De Leon told the EPA staff during the program.

'Survivors'

The 105 turtles survived poaching and commercial trade. As eggs valued for their supposed cure to illnesses like asthma, they were recovered from hunters and merchants.

EPA involved the residents of fishing villages here in that "rescue" effort.

They collected the eggs and brought these to the group's hatchery in Carusipan, said its chair Bruce Oliver, an American.

EPA paid the residents for collecting eggs, matching the rate with the market price of P6 a piece. It also retrieved those that reached the San Antonio market, some 6 km away, and bought the eggs at prevailing prices.

Like those recovered in the communities, those from the market are taken to the hatchery for a 45-day incubation period under the sand.

However, only one out of 100 hatchlings usually makes it to maturity but this survival rate, Oliver said, already outweighs the painstaking recovery work from September to December when Olive Ridley eggs are laid along the coastlines of Bataan and Zambales provinces.

EPA has helped more than 1,400 turtles return to the sea since starting the Zambales marine conservation project here more than a year ago.

Community support

Wednesday's batch was the 15th, according to Brenda Bondoc, the group's coastal management officer.

"At first, it was difficult convincing the residents to participate in this project. They had questions on why foreigners were helping out. But our education and information work here have helped the residents appreciate the need to protect the turtles that formed part of the marine ecosystem," Bondoc explained.

Bondoc and community volunteers take turns doing the 24-hour work almost daily, which include hatchery work and night patrols.

The most satisfying part, she said, was seeing the turtles return to the sea.

Tony Aglibot, 41, one of the fishermen active in the project, said community support for the project has spread among fishing families in Barangays Silangin, Nagsasa, Talisayin, Anawangin, Agnaem and Pundaquit.

Oliver said EPA is embarking next on a coral reef rehabilitation and marine sanctuary development project in those coastal communities.

He said the projects could help increase the yield of fishermen in these villages, where the average catch reaches only 70 kilograms or less weekly and mostly comprised of the inexpensive fish bidbid.

Foreigners

Oliver and EPA president James Crossley, also an American, are doing their bit for the Philippines because they avow love for the environment and their adopted country, which has been their base in the last eight years.

Oliver and his Filipina wife chose to rear their two children in Angeles City. Crossley lives at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

"Being a foreigner is an attitude. Wherever you're living, that's your home," Crossley said of why he was devoting his time and skills in local pro-environment work.

Oliver said EPA, comprised of people from various countries and diverse professions, are "not just tree huggers."

"We want to help the communities," he said.

He counts his late father Robert, the economic and labor director of the post-war reconstruction Marshall Plan, and Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, among his greatest influences in his involvement in environmental protection work.

The Zambales project is the group's fourth undertaking. Earlier, EPA had worked with the Aeta indigenous people for resettlement, reforestation and watershed rehabilitation projects in Mt. Pinatubo with one of EPA's Filipino members, Guy Hilbero.

The group has a forthcoming project in Mindanao that EPA founder, the late Brig. Gen. Alfredo Olano, a Filipino, had prepared before his death.

The Zambales project has also drawn in volunteers like Helen Bachmeire, 44, a native of the province.

"It's so enjoyable," she said of her work as a local coordinator.

Bachmeire learned to love turtles through her late American husband. She said sea adventures with her husband in Queensland, Australia, introduced her to the "ways and pains" of the gentle sea creatures.

She said some of their vacations in Palawan ended being rescue missions for a few pawikan (*Caretta caretta*) that were prepared for selling or butchering.

DENR's De Leon said the EPA initiative in Zambales deserves support. The agency is extending technical and monitoring assistance to the project.

The Zambales provincial government is giving the project P100,000 in financial aid.

Group hails SC decision on mining

LUCENA CITY—An environmentalist group hailed the Supreme Court decision last Jan. 29 declaring some provisions of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 unconstitutional.

"The Supreme Court decision declaring provisions of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 as unconstitutional, vindicates the relentless opposition to it by environmental groups and mining-affected communities," said Clemente Bautista Jr., coordinator of the national environmental network Kalikasan-PNE, in a statement.

The high court voided several provisions of RA 7942 and its implementing rules and regulations. The main provisions of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 would have allowed big foreign mining firms to do business in the country.

The DENR planned to appeal the ruling. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

The Bagulo Flower Festival Panagbenga 2004 unfolds

Baguio blooms in February through the flower power of the Panagbenga Festival. Conceived to highlight and boost the cutflower industry, innovations have made the festival maintain through the years. Rehearsals by school bands and dancers, concepts for float designs, setting up of landscapes, tents, banners, herald the coming of the biggest festival with various components that evolve, making tourists mark their calendars every year.

So much to see, so much to do: February 7 at the Melvin Jones presents the young artists competing through the best banners; February 15 is the day for the Pony Boys as their horses putting their best "hoof" forward; February 13 to 14 gives a romantic treat at the Burnham Lake Flower Fest. The festival promises the much-awaited grand parade on February 21 at 2:00 pm featuring the street dancing competition where different school groups don original designed costumes, dancing to the theme of the festival down session road. By 7pm, everyone can enjoy the Fireworks Competition. February 22, Session road turns on the flower power with the floats designed by the best landscapers of Baguio. For three days from February 20-22, the Baguio Association of Restaurants brings on Shake, Baguio, Shake! At the Malcolm Square where one can indulge in the best strawberry shakes.

February 1 to 22, at the Market Encounter, people can delight in the evolving designs of the landscapes, which have become favorite backdrops for that souvenir photo. The Carpet of Flowers found at the Market Encounter, concretizes the theme " Let a thousand flowers bloom," designed by the Office of the City Architect and implemented by Efren Chato of King Louie Farms. Offering the best therapy-shopping, the showcase of Baguio products shall blend with the best of other regions in the north. With the Panagbenga fever spreading throughout the country, it provides a good opportunity to boost tourism in the north through the various native products.

Outdoor recreation like inflatables, rides for kids and adults and wall climbing make for a great encounter in Baguio. Concerts and other entertainment activities are being programmed for everyone to chill out under the starts. Of course, the encounter isn't complete without the good eats at the food court. February 23 to 29, Session Road becomes a great promenade area with street cafes and more flowers. In the evenings, guests can enjoy listening to the band or dance under the star by live band.

Panagbenga has become a tradition borne out of the creative energy of the Baguio people. Each year the city government, the community and partners have worked hard to give " more than the usual" .

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 1, 2004 (Sun)
8:00 AM
Opening Ceremonies
7:00 PM
Fireworks Display
FEBRUARY 1-22, (Sat)
The BFF Market Encounter
Judging of Landscaping Competition
School based Activities
Carpet of Flowers
FEBRUARY 7, (Sat)
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
More than the usual...
Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom.
(Free Painting Event)
FEBRUARY 7-8, (Sat-Sun)
6 AM Tee-off
The BFF Flower Tee Golf Tilt

FEBRUARY 13-14, (Fri-Sat)
Burnham Lake Flowers Fest
FEBRUARY 15, (Sun)
Pony Boys Day
FEBRUARY 15-29, (Sun)
Flower Fest Arts and Cultural Show
FEBRUARY 21, (Sat)
2:00 PM
The Grand Opening Parade
Street Dancing Competition
FEBRUARY 21-22, (Sat-Sun)
7:00 PM
Fireworks Competition

FEBRUARY 22, (Sun)
9:00
The Parade of Floats and Brass Band Competition
7:00 PM
Mr. Panagbenga Bodybuilding Competition
FEBRUARY 23-29, (Mon - Sun)
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Session Road in Bloom
FEBRUARY 29, (Mon - Sun)
6:00 AM
The BFF National Half Marathon and 5Km & 10Km Run
1:00 PM
The Closing Ceremony
7:00 PM
Fireworks Display

Globe SUN STAR SAMSUNG CITY ABS-CBN CALTEX SMART

PETRON

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

PETRON OFFERS DIESEL DISCOUNTS FOR TRANSPORT SECTOR

Since the last quarter of 2003, international oil prices have sustained its upward movement. This has resulted in several price increases in the past few months. Supporting the national government's call to look for ways to cushion the impact of rising prices, Petron Corporation has been offering diesel discounts for public utility vehicles since September last year at selected service stations.

"We would like to assure the public that we will continue to provide discounts to the public transport sector to mitigate the impact of rising crude prices," Public Affairs Manager Virginia A. Ruivivar said. "We are aware of our social obligations and this is our way of fulfilling that commitment."

In January, the company more than doubled the number of service stations offering diesel discounts from 9 stations to 19 along major transport routes. Petron also expanded the coverage of its discounts to include public utility buses from the initial scheme that only offered discounts to public utility jeepneys.

Ruivivar added that the company's move to add more service stations that offer the scheme is part of its ongoing efforts to increase the number of beneficiaries.

For their part, the largest transport group in the country--the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (FEJODAP) said that the diesel discounts have helped them cope with rising oil prices and have caused them to postpone a petition to increase transport fares.

"Kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa Petron sa patuloy nilang pagmamalasakit sa aming mga tsuper. Napakalaking tulong nitong diesel diskwento na s'ya ring patunay ng pagpapahalaga ng administrasyong ito sa amin," FEJODAP President Zeny Maranan said.

The company first introduced the diesel discount concept last March 2003 at the height of the U.S.-Iraq conflict which pushed crude prices above $30 per barrel.

DIESEL DISKWENTO PARA SA MASANG PILIPINO
Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is flanked by (from L-R) Energy Secretary Vince Perez, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, FEJODAP President Zeny Maranan, and Oil Industry Management Bureau Director Zenaida Monsada during the launch of the diesel discount scheme at one of Petron's service stations.

Petron stations with diesel discounts:

Juan Luna, Tondo, **Manila**
Aurora Boulevard corner Lauan Cubao,**QC**
Marcos Highway (near Sta. Lucia Mall), **Pasig**
Pedro Gil corner San Marcelino, Paco, **Manila**
Laong Laan corner Halcon, **QC**
Bayani corner Unang Hakbang, Galas, **QC**
Real St., Zapote, **Las Piñas**
Dapitan corner Dr. Alejos, **QC**
Ortigas corner Santolan, **San Juan**
Along EDSA, Dasmariñas Village, **Makati**
Along EDSA corner Main, **QC** (near Camp Crame)
Alabang, Muntinlupa City (under flyover)
East Avenue, **QC** (near LTO)
Zabarte Road, Novaliches **QC**
McArthur Highway, Marulas, **Valenzuela City**
E. Rodriguez and Araneta Avenue, **QC**,
Quirino Avenue, Tambo,**Parañaque City**
J.P. Rizal corner Reposo, **Makati City**,
Hulong Duhat, **Malabon**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Palace clears Nani Perez of criminal charges

From page A1

our report and recommendation regarding the cases involving (Perez and Braganza) to the Palace," Baltazar said.

The status of Braganza's case could not be ascertained as of press time.

Roco's case

The PAGC burst into public consciousness when it filed graft charges against Raul Roco in August 2002. At that time, Roco, the education secretary, was leading the surveys of likely presidential candidates.

By December 2002, the case against Roco, which he had denounced as politically motivated and which prompted him to resign from the Cabinet, had already been submitted to the Palace for action.

When the INQUIRER yesterday asked the Malacañang Legal Office for the status of the Roco case, however, no one in the several departments that the newspaper was referred to could give a definite answer.

The PAGC, chaired by Dario Rama, is part of the Office of the President.

Perez case

The PAGC case against Perez arose from his issuance of an official memorandum in November 2002 barring the Bureau of Immigration from divulging the travel records of the President, Vice President, Cabinet members and lawmakers without his express approval.

The PAGC ruled in 2003 that Perez's memo violated the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials, the 1987 Constitution, the Administrative Code of 1987, and Presidential Decree No. 1829 "Penalizing Obstruction of Apprehension and Prosecution of Criminal Offenders."

In its recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the PAGC recommended that charges be filed against Perez, and that the criminal aspect of the case be referred to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The PAGC had wanted to slap a one-year suspension on Perez, but his resignation rendered the penalty moot. The PAGC's main concern in investigating Perez was to determine whether he committed graft and corruption when he issued the memo.

In its findings, the committee of peers found the dissenting opinion of Commissioner Cesar Buenaflor—who felt that the PAGC's probe on Perez was "premature and without legal basis"—was more persuasive than the position taken by the majority, namely Rama and Baltazar.

The committee noted that the Perez memo did not constitute an "absolute prohibition" in the disclosure of travel documents because "it only prohibited unauthorized disclosure."

Guarded secret?

The committee also noted that the issuance of the memo does not constitute misconduct or conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service because the PAGC failed to give "clear evidence of wrongful intention."

The committee also cited the principles of presumption of legality and of regularity of official acts, when it rejected the PAGC's "insinuation that in issuing the questioned memo, Perez was impelled by his alleged desire to "keep his little jaunt to Hong Kong in February 2001 a guarded secret from the Ombudsman."

HERNANDO PEREZ: Was he covering up his tracks relative to the alleged P2-million bribe he allegedly received from former Rep. Mark Jimenez? PDI PHOTO FILE

The committee also sided with Perez when the ex-justice secretary, a close ally of the President's, contended that as a presidential appointee, his issuance of the memo was beyond the jurisdiction of the PAGC and its assumption of the case was fraught with "gross irregularities."

Baltazar noted that the recommendation against Perez was to charge him with "obstruction of justice."

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama had objected to Perez's memorandum, claiming that Perez was merely trying to cover his tracks in the alleged $2-million bribe he received from former Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Perez reportedly withdrew the money from a bank in Hong Kong.

Braganza, for his part, was accused of making alleged questionable multi-million expenditures during the Department of Agrarian Reform's anniversary last year.

Braganza has resigned his post and is now running for mayor in Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Other cases

Baltazar said the PAGC may also be approaching the end stages of the investigation relative to accusations that Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun has caused the awarding of contract to a nongovernment organization she used to belong to.

Also approaching resolution is the case filed against Philippine Ports Authority head Alfonso Cusi, who is accused of allegedly failing to divest shares in a company that was doing business with the PPA.

Cusi's cargo-handling company, Starlite Marine and Industrial Services Corp., reportedly obtained a 15-year contract to lease a PPA property in Tagbilaran City, Bohol province.

The move reportedly constitutes a "conflict of interest" that caused "damage and injuries to the government."

Plunder charges

Cusi is also facing plunder charges in the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly constructing a defective P230-million port in Roxas City, Capiz province. The port is said to be slowly sinking.

Baltazar clarified the PAGC had yet to receive the complaint against Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, who was accused of amassing P100 million in unexplained wealth, although he declared a net worth of P1.589 million in his statement of assets and liabilities in 1992.

The case was filed in the Office of the Ombudsman last week.

Soriquez is also facing possible suspension for his involvement in alleged irregularities involving the construction of the P2.7-billion anti-lahar megadike scam in Pampanga.

Bigger fish

Rama said the PAGC was set to file charges against "several high ranking officials in the executive department who have failed to pass the lifestyle check."

These officials, he said, are "bigger fishes" compared to the customs and internal revenue officials recently charged with graft.

He said the officials were all "presidential appointees with the rank of assistant regional director and up."

Thus far, he said, the PAGC has already "disposed of some 800 graft cases and close to 150 lifestyle check cases."

Bro. Eddie on FPJ: Love child a non-issue

From page A1

out sin cast the first stone.'"

Villanueva said he would not resort to "mudslinging," a common practice during the campaign season.

"We will never resort to attacking any political leader. We are just presenting a no-nonsense, righteous, good government to our people. Our purpose is to fight old politics and establish new politics in our country," he said, adding:

Political circus

"This is the key so that the Philippines can graduate from the political circus and give genuine focus on development and progress."

According to Villanueva, the political circus will continue unless "righteous, credible leadership" takes over.

"It's possible we might experience either a revolution or a military junta," he warned, citing the observations of political analysts.

Hearty laugh

As for President Macapagal-Arroyo, she is keeping to herself whatever she feels about the confession of her closest rival for Malacañang.

Asked at a press conference if she thought morality should be a campaign issue, Ms Macapagal said: "I said the press conference should be focused on governance, not on the campaign."

She delivered her standard reply to questions on political issues, not with a flash of her famous temper, but with a hearty, lingering laugh.

She kept her good mood even when asked next about the reopening of the Senate inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's "Jose Pidal" exposé against her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"I have no comment. No comment. No comment. Precisely no election-related comments. I want to work on governance," she said.

Ms Macapagal conducted the rare press conference at the Presidential Security Group Park before flying to Tiaong, Quezon.

She announced that she would hold conferences with the media on a more regular basis to show the people that she continued to run the government even while campaigning.

Ms Macapagal discussed the steps being taken to prevent the entry of bird flu into the country, and left Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to answer reporters' questions.

Faithfulness

The questions on bird flu done with, some reporters asked Dayrit about the government policy on the use of contraceptives to prevent the conception of illegitimate children.

"The government policy is family planning and responsible parenthood," he replied. "So if you are in a position to have children, you must be sure that you can take care of the child. The methods are up to you."

Asked if he thought it was all right for a man to have children with a woman not his wife, the health secretary said: "That's a question that every person has to answer. I was taught that you should have one wife, and you should be faithful to her."

Only Lacson

The leader of the Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng mga Manggagawang Impormal (Katinig), a nongovernment organization working among the urban poor, said the presidential candidates, particularly Poe, should present their respective programs on family planning.

"If he [Poe] were practicing responsible parenthood, he could have prevented an unwanted pregnancy, such as one out of wedlock," Katinig president Mercedes Nicolas told the INQUIRER. "We are quite interested in knowing the views on family planning of Mr. Poe, as well as those of other presidential candidates."

Nicolas said that among the presidential candidates, only Sen. Panfilo Lacson had stated his position on the issue.

"We are not endorsing Senator Lacson, but it is only he who has pushed for modern methods in family planning," she said.

These modern methods include male sterilization or vasectomy, tubal ligation, and use of condoms and intra-uterine devices, pills and injectable contraceptives.

Responsible parenthood

Nicolas said Katinig considered responsible parenthood and family planning as "some of the vital aspects of poverty alleviation."

"Right now, most of what we are getting from the presidential candidates are motherhood statements on population control," she observed.

Katinig is composed of sidewalk vendors, pedicab drivers, home-based workers and other members of the informal sector, and is a member-organization of the National Anti-Poverty Commission's basic sector council. It is also part of a newly formed advocacy group pushing for responsible parenthood, responsible teen sexuality and modern family planning methods.

"The urban poor don't know much about the increase in the gross national product," Nicolas said. "What they know is that they don't have enough money for food, clothes and other basic needs partly because of the unmet need of responsible parenthood and family planning." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Erap lauds pal, takes swipe at FVR

By Armand N. Nocum

A MAN who admits having an illegitimate child is more admirable than one who does not, according to Joseph Estrada.

The ousted President, who is widely known to have engaged in extramarital affairs and to have sired children in these relationships, phoned the INQUIRER close to midnight Wednesday to state his views on various matters and to say that Fernando Poe Jr. should be commended for acknowledging his 22-year-old son by former starlet Ana Marin.

"He is but human ... candid and honest," Estrada said of his best friend. He said Poe was "not like" former President Fidel Ramos, "who denied having a son by [Rosemarie] Arenas."

The socialite Arenas allegedly had an affair with Ramos prior to the latter's election as president. The affair allegedly resulted in the birth of Arenas' youngest son.

The birth certificate of Robert Jose Pio Antonio Arenas shows he was born on Feb. 19, 1978, in Makati to parents Ramon Lopez Arenas and Rosemarie Bosch Jimenez.

During Ramos' confirmation hearing as defense secretary in 1988, he answered in the negative when asked by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel if he had a son by a woman not his wife.

The matter became the object of much speculation during the presidential campaign in 1992, when Ramos suddenly made a trip to Switzerland where Roberto was then said to be schooling.

Ramos claimed to have met with Christian Democrat supporters then, but a top official of Switzerland's Christian Democratic Party denied that a meeting between Ramos and his group ever took place.

Arenas found herself in the middle of a controversy in 1993 when it was reported that she was heading a "kitchen Cabinet" known as the "Wednesday Club," where state matters were allegedly discussed by some high officials and Ramos advisers.

Arroyo brothers no-show at Senate inquiry into Pidal case

From page A1

cause he said it was very clear that the "two specimens were signed by two different people."

"The thing is, they submitted it. Obviously one set was signed by Iggy and the other set by Mike," Osmeña told reporters.

"It's a cover-up and the PNP Crime Lab is part of the cover-up," the senator said.

When reporters asked Sorra to react to Osmeña's statement, she denied that she had lied.

Two sets

In the hearing, Osmeña put Sorra on the spot when he questioned why Ignacio provided two sets of handwriting specimens to the Crime Lab at the same time and on the same day, at 9:30 a.m. of Sept. 1 last year.

Osmeña quizzed Sorra on the two sets of specimens because of what he said was the glaring difference in the strokes.

But Sorra said she witnessed Ignacio signing both sets of specimens that day.

GMA 7 news anchor and reporter Arnold Clavio told the Senate hearing, however, that he could only recall seeing Ignacio signing one set of specimens.

"I saw Ignacio Arroyo signing one form," said Clavio, who along with Sorra, lawyer Antonio Zulueta, police inspector Leonito Cantollas, Rosario Perez and others who witnessed Ignacio sign as Jose Pidal.

To reiterate her earlier findings that Ignacio Arroyo was indeed Jose Pidal, Sorra presented to the hearing an enlarged copy of the two sets of specimens along with the Jose Pidal signature lifted from a check that Lacson alleged was issued by Mike Arroyo himself.

Angry

But Osmeña, already angry at Sorra's insistence that Ignacio signed both sets despite Clavio's testimony, pointedly asked the handwriting expert to analyze only one set.

Osmeña later told reporters he did so because this particular specimen resembled the handwriting of Ignacio when he signed as Jose Pidal before Clavio on Aug. 29 last year, when the presidential brother-in-law first owned up to being Pidal.

Analyzing the handwriting, Sorra said that "there were stroke indications that this was written only by one person."

Comparing differences

Osmeña, however, told reporters that Sorra made comparisons "letter by letter," noting that one is supposed to "compare the differences and not similarities."

"We will bring expert witnesses (in the next hearing) to rebut her (Sorra)," the senator said.

Also in the hearing, Osmeña told officials of the banks where Jose Pidal allegedly opened accounts that the committees would subpoena them for documents to find out whether a Jose Pidal account was opened there.

This came after bank officials of Union Bank and International Exchange Bank declined to cooperate with the committees.

Neither confirm nor deny

Both Greg Cervantes and Ferdinand Galvez of Inter-Exchange Bank, representing the Perea and Tektite branches, told Osmeña they could neither confirm nor deny the existence of a Jose Pidal account in their respective branches.

Only Bank of the Philippine Islands reiterated its earlier testimony that a Jose Pidal account had been opened in its Perea branch in 1997 but closed in 2000.

Angara said the committees did not violate anything by asking bank officials to cooperate in the renewed hearings.

Bank secrecy

Angara reiterated that the two committees have ruled that the right to privacy could not be used in this hearing because the issue at hand was of "public interest."

But Union Bank lawyer Fe Macalino told the committee that the bank had already submitted to Sen. Joker Arroyo's blue ribbon committee, which had initially led the inquiry into the controversy, its position paper on the issue. The bank's position is that the bank secrecy and other laws prevent bank officials from disclosing details about accounts to congressional inquiries.

Angara then asked Macalino to submit to their committees the same position paper.

High blood pressure

Osmeña and Angara said the next hearing would be held next week as they asked the First Gentleman's lawyer Jesus Santos to make sure that his client would be around.

Santos told the senators that Arroyo was down with acute bronchitis and hypertension. But he told them he could not ascertain whether his client would be able to make it in the next hearing set for next week.

The committee, on the other hand, was informed that Ignacio Arroyo was out of the country.

Iggy in Bacolod

But in Bacolod City, Ignacio said he was in fact in the country, but he said he did not attend the Senate hearing because he did not receive any subpoena.

He said his staff in Manila could not have told the Senate that he was out of the country since they knew otherwise.

"They should not have said that. They know I am here," he said.

Asked if he would attend the hearing if he received a subpoena, he said: "I would have to consult with my lawyer. As I have said, they have not presented any new evidence. It is a rehash of old charges."

He called the reopening of the hearing "tantamount to political harassment without basis."

He said he had not talked to his brother when asked if it was true that he could not attend the hearing because he had hypertension.

But he said his brother was suffering from hypertension. "You know, he is fat."

Also deemed "cannot be located" by Senate authorities were Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, Lacson's erstwhile star witness who has since gone back to Arroyo's camp, as well as Kelvin Tan, whom Lacson said was one of the dummies used by Mike Arroyo in his bank accounts.

Senate authorities were informed that Victoria Toh was no longer holding office at the LTA building in Perea Street in Makati City, the office of Mike Arroyo.

Calling in sick and thus unable to make it in yesterday's hearings were Edgardo Manda, chief of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Arnold Tagle of Unionbank-Perea, and Erwin Lapuz of UnionBank.

Political color

For his part, Lacson wrote Osmeña to tell him he was inhibiting himself from the ongoing investigation "to avoid being accused of using the Senate inquiry to boost his candidacy."

Lacson said he had turned over to Osmeña his pieces of evidence against Arroyo but withheld others deemed "too personal in nature."

"I have submitted all the pertinent documents, both the original and the facsimile copies, to the committee as a basis for its investigation," he said. "The only documents that I have withheld are the letters and pictures involving the principal characters in the life of Mr. Jose Pidal as presented by Udong Mahusay, which I deem to be of very personal nature." *With a report from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SUERTRES 9 8 0

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
7 0 8 0 9 9

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
5 7 12 33 45 46

10 farmers hurt in violent QC dispersal

By Tina Santos and Christine Gaylican

POLICEMEN in riot gear and truncheon-wielding enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority yesterday dispersed the estimated 200 farmers protesting outside the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City.

At least 10 farmers were injured, while two others were arrested after the authorities charged the protesters camped outside the DAR central office.

The farmers were calling for the ouster of DAR Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

According to Central Police District investigators, two of the farmers—Catalino Parocha, 35, and Felipe Batersal, 58—were seriously injured in the violent dispersal.

Parocha has reportedly sustained severe head injuries and now lies unconscious at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Investigators identified the other injured protesters as Eduardo Pastoral, Restituto Ludovice, Ranel Bucio, Jonnel dela Torre, Hircen dela Cruz, Pena Gonzaga, Irish Mangga and Efren Lagumbay.

According to witnesses, the authorities—MMDA enforcers, Special Weapons and Tactics unit members and lawmen from the Baler police station—arrived at the DAR office at around 10 a.m. on board seven trucks and started to round up the protesters.

"Some of us were sleeping when (the authorities) came and started hitting us with whatever they had at hand," Eduardo Pastoral said in Filipino.

Pastoral, 65, was hit by a truncheon in the ribs. He said that he now has difficulty breathing.

"They said we are violating the MMDA's directive, that we are illegally occupying the sidewalks," said Lea Banares-Calmada of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng Mga Lokal na Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka). "We are confused because the (MMDA has) issued us a permit."

Calmada said that they have been issued an MMDA permit dated Feb. 3. It is set to expire on Feb. 28.

Calmada added that they also have a written agreement with DAR Undersecretary Teddie Rivera.

Two other farmers—Bonifacio Responso and Jun Hermocilla—allegedly were caught with Molotov bombs and have been hauled to the Baler police station for questioning.

But Vangie Mendoza, Unorka president, said that the two arrested men could not possibly make Molotov bombs.

Mendoza also said that when she asked the leader of the dispersal team, identified only as a Col. Balmaceda, she was told that the dispersal order came from MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. Pagdanganan reportedly sought the help of the MMDA chief to disperse the protesters.

The 200 protesting farmers from the provinces have been camping out at the DAR premises since Jan. 19 to press for the removal of Pagdanganan.

They are condemning Pagdanganan for allowing over 200 exemptions and land conversions involving property covered by the comprehensive agrarian reform program of the government.

"The decisions on landholdings, including the exemption cited in the case of the Floreindos in Davao, are highly anomalous and questionable reversals," Unorka officials said in a statement.

CPD SWAT
UIS

A FARMER gets the business end of a truncheon as lawmen in full riot gear storm the picket line of protesting peasants camped outside the Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City. EPA PHOTO

2 die in Marikina fire

A WOMAN and a boy yesterday morning died in a fire in Marikina City.

Mark Gabriel Villola, 2, died of suffocation, while Christine Luwansin, 23, a relative, suffered serious burn injuries and died on the way to the hospital, according to SFO1 Noel Guiab.

Three other members of the Villola family—parents Mark and Dona Gay, and daughter Maria Eliza, 3—are now being treated for second and third degree burns at the East Avenue Medical Center, Guiab said.

Fire authorities said the Villola family were preparing breakfast at around 6 a.m. in their house on Palma Street, Barangay Parang, when they saw thick smoke coming from the living room, the survivors told the authorities.

For 20 minutes, the entire family was trapped in the burning house, until firefighters pulled them out to safety. *Luige del Puerto*

'Trees? What trees?' MMDA chair asks

By Margaux Ortiz

NO TREES were sacrificed in developing Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City as a clearway.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando reiterated this yesterday after the Quezon City Regional Trial Court issued a restraining order stopping them from "cutting, injuring, damaging, balling, uprooting and transferring the remaining trees in the avenue."

"We did not cut any trees on Katipunan," Fernando stressed in a phone interview.

"*Nagmamarunong na naman sila* (They are acting as if they know everything)," he added, referring to groups opposed to the cutting of trees on the avenue.

The MMDA chair said the only plants they removed were bougainvilleas and shrubs.

He said that trees in the service islands were not touched during the construction of U-turn slots, which are major components of the clearway system on Katipunan.

Fernando emphasized that since the completion of the U-turn slots, traffic in the area had improved. He added, however, that two more weeks were needed to make the system reach its potential.

Squatters hamper anew Camanava flood control project

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

INFORMAL dwellers earlier relocated to give way to the Camanava Flood Control Project have come back and are delaying work on the site.

Worse, a new batch of settlers have reportedly began occupying areas previously cleared for the P5-billion project aimed at ending the perennial flooding in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela and the town of Navotas.

Project manager Louie Mamitag told the INQUIRER yesterday that work had, so far, been on schedule. But the construction of polder dikes and floodgates was beginning to experience delays because the settlers were in the way.

The project, which covers 18.48 sq. kms. of northern Metro Manila, runs through parts of huge urban poor communities.

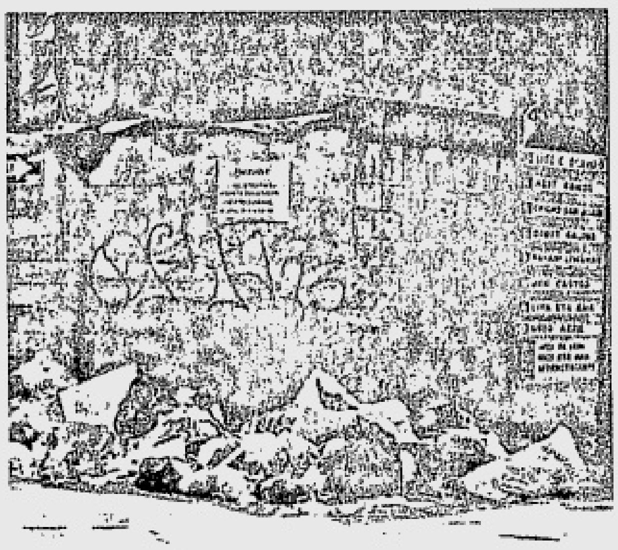
Mamitag said clearing operations along C3 Road in Navotas and Maypajo in Caloocan City had been wasted since residents, whom they believe are professional squatters, had come back after being relocated.

Mamitag said the responsibility of keeping the project site clear of illegal dwellers fell on the local governments.

But an urban poor leader who spoke to the INQUIRER expressed confidence that the local officials would not move to antagonize them because of the coming elections.

Construction is now concentrated in Bangkulasi, Navotas, where concrete box culverts are being built, and in Dampalit, Malabon City, where foundations for the polder dikes are being laid. The Malabon City river is also being dredged and widened, Mamitag added.

Earlier, some 5,000 settlers were moved to three relocation sites in San Jose del Monte and Norzagaray, Bulacan.



A PILE of garbage waits for Pasay City politicians to settle the issue of renewing hauling contracts so that it could be removed from this street corner.

Pasay City buried in garbage politics

By Joyce Abaño

INTRAMURAL politics is allegedly burying Pasay City in garbage.

Since yesterday morning, the city's four contractors have stopped collecting garbage from Pasay's 201 barangays, resulting in mounds of trash along roads and communities.

Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad blamed majority of the members of the City Council for the problem.

Trinidad said he had been seeking authority to sign for a new multi-million peso, one-year garbage hauling contract since December but the councilors had refused to give it to him.

He was referring to councilors Rey Padua, Allan Panaligan, Bong Tolentino, Rey Mateo, Marlon Pesebre, RJ Cabrera, Greg Paolo Alcera and Ed Advincula.

Trinidad expressed belief that politics was involved, explaining that residents would surely blame him if Pasay became dirty and filthy.

"Everything has been going smoothly until they (councilors) screwed everything up," the mayor said.

The contractors, L.E.G. Hauling Services Corp., R.M. Services Inc., Solid Waste Alternative Technology Inc. and Green Onyx Technology, have written Trinidad that they could not continue with their services without a contract.

The previous contract ended last Dec. 31.

But Mateo blamed Trinidad for the problem, saying the mayor conducted a premature bidding in November when there was still no budget for garbage collection.

The mayor has refused to conduct a new bidding since then, Mateo added.

The councilor also said that they had given Trinidad authority to enter into a limited contract to prevent garbage from piling up but the mayor allegedly rejected this.

2 break out of Bilibid

TWO MEN on Wednesday night broke out of the medium security compound of the New Bilibid Prisons.

NBP officials identified the escapees as Rommel Meneses, a rape convict, and Rodolfo Corpuz, a convicted thief.

Yesterday, the authorities recaptured one of 15 men who bolted the Rodriguez, Rizal municipal jail on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip, the pursuit team and barangay security forces caught Alexander Guillermo at around 1 a.m. in his house in Barangay Maly, San Mateo, Rizal, according to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

"(Guillermo) made the mistake of going home, and we thank the residents for their cooperation," said Supt. George Talania, of the BJMP. *Margaux Ortiz, Luige del Puerto*

Patricia, 2, needs help

PATRICIA Mae Sarmiento, 2, needs a a liver transplant to live.

Born with biliary atresia—marked by the closure of the liver ducts that drain the bile from the organ—Patricia would die if the transplant is not done soon, according to her doctors at the Philippine Children's Medical Center. A liver transplant costs P3 million.

Donors may reach Patricia's parents, Daniel and Maurice, at 32 Daang Tubo Maly, San Mateo, Rizal; telephone no. 476-0502; cell phone no. (0918)382-7498.

Donations may also be sent to the account of Maurice A. Sarmiento, ITF Patricia Mae Sarmiento (account number 8416-0209-54, Bank of the Philippine Islands, San Mateo, Rizal).

Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 6,2004

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT/PROPOSAL FOR AN OCEANARIUM-AQUARIUM PROJECT

The Office of the City Mayor of Manila is inviting all interested persons and developers/investors to submit a letter of intent/proposal for the Long Term Lease and Development of a portion of the City Patrimonial Property adjacent to the Manila Zoo site; into a marine and fresh water **OCEANARIUM-AQUARIUM PROJECT.**

Interested parties shall register and submit their letter of intent/proposal to the Bids and Awards Committee thru **Atty. Jaime P. Valencia, Jr., Officer-In-Charge, City General Services Office**, Room 104, City Hall, Manila with tel. nos. 5279536 and 5279538.

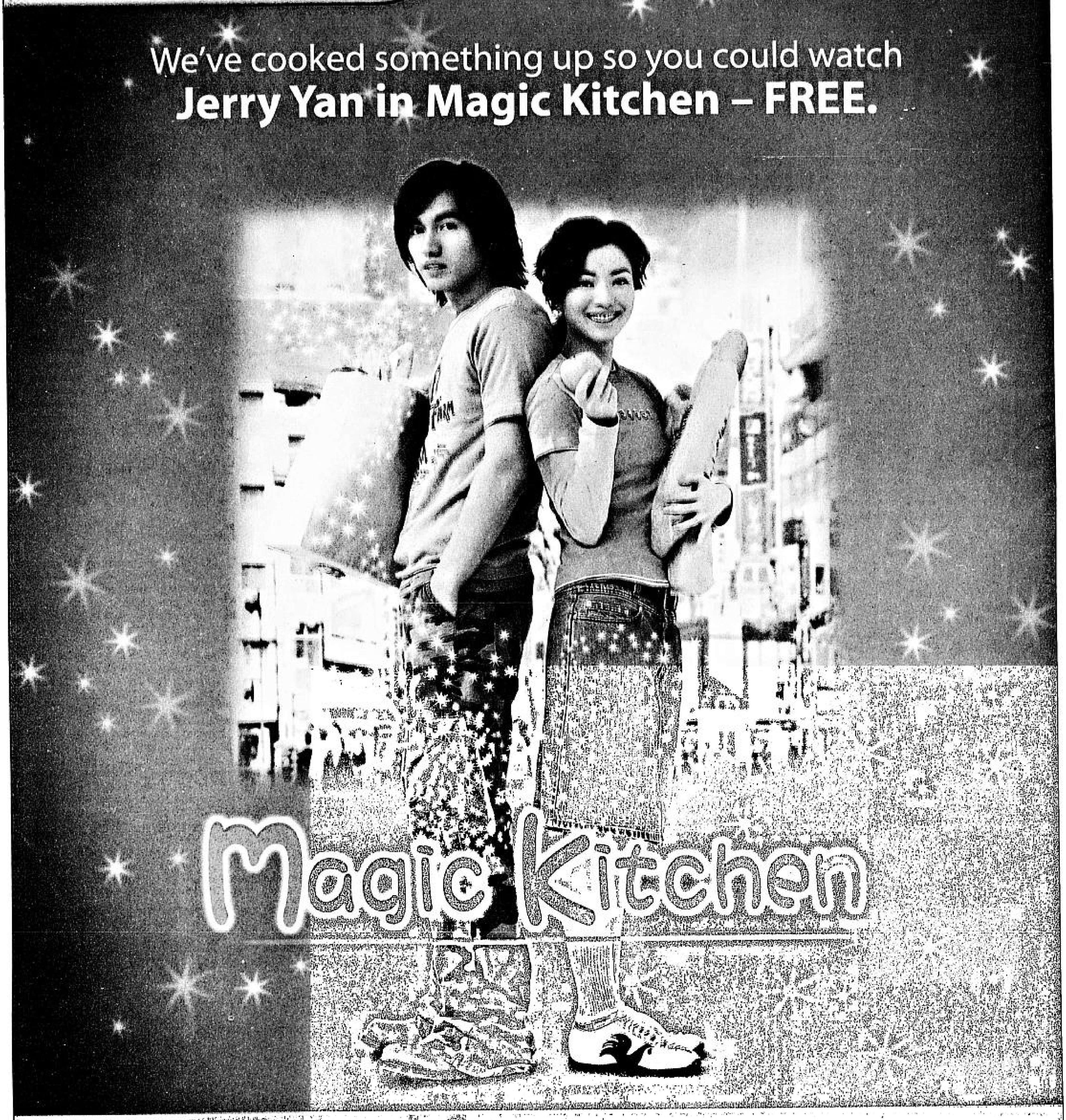
By Authority of the Mayor:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

SMART Buddy Pre-paid **downloads**

Give your celfone character!

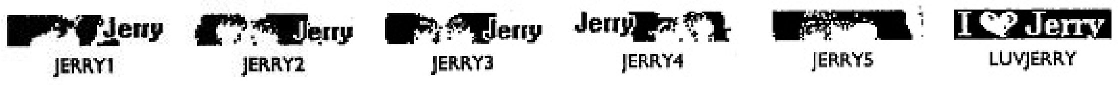
We've cooked something up so you could watch Jerry Yan in Magic Kitchen – FREE.


Magic Kitchen

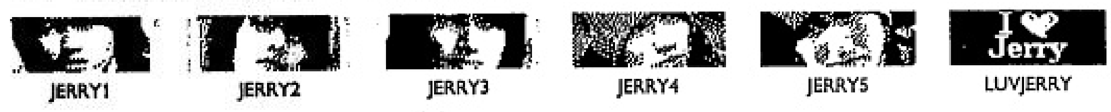
Buy a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at any SMART Wireless Center and get an exclusive Magic Kitchen collectible or a ticket to the advanced screening!*

You may also download Magic Kitchen tones and icons to earn points for a chance to win movie gift packs daily or ₱100,000 cash in the grand draw.** The more points you earn, the greater your chances of winning.

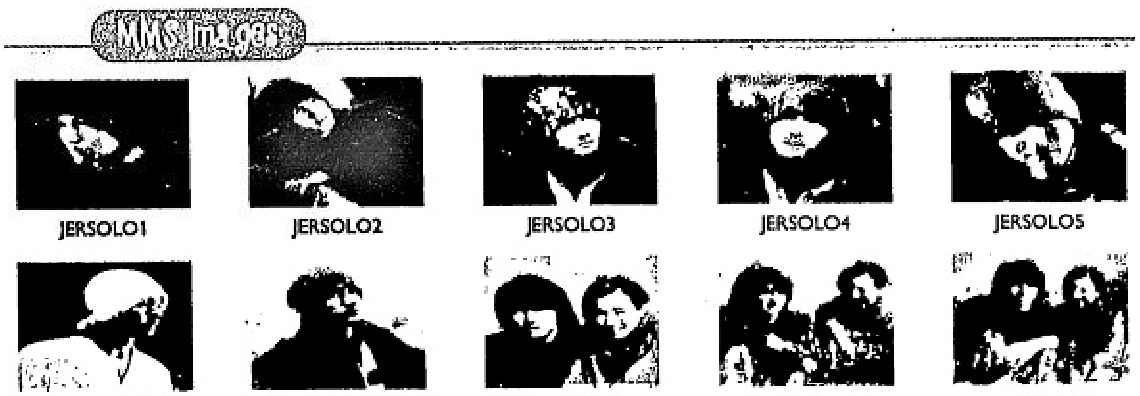
Logos


JERRY1
JERRY2
JERRY3
JERRY4
JERRY5
LUVJERRY

Picture Messages


JERRY1
JERRY2
JERRY3
JERRY4
JERRY5
LUVJERRY

MMS Images


JERSOLO1
JERSOLO2
JERSOLO3
JERSOLO4
JERSOLO5
JERSOLO7
JERSOLO7
LUVTEAM1
LUVTEAM2
LUVTEAM5

To get:	Text to 290:
Operator Logo	M2 <keyword>
Picture Message	M3 <keyword>
MMS Image	M4 <keyword>
Ringtone / Polytone	M5 <keyword>

Ringtones / Polytones

Titles	Keywords
Black Magic Woman by Santana	MK1
Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic by Sting	MK2
Got To Believe In Magic by David Pomeranz	MK3
You Can Do Magic by America	MK4
Kind Of Magic by Queen	MK5

Text F4 to 290

Powered by:

Entertainment Gateway Group

SMART Simply Amazing!

The advanced screening of Magic Kitchen is on February 6, 2004 at SM Megamall and Southmall.
"Magic Kitchen" starring F4's Jerry Yan opens in theaters on February 11, 2004.
This service is also available to Smart Gold, Addict Mobile, and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Each message costs P2.50. Each download costs P15.00.

*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0374, Series of 2004.
**Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3609, Series of 2003.

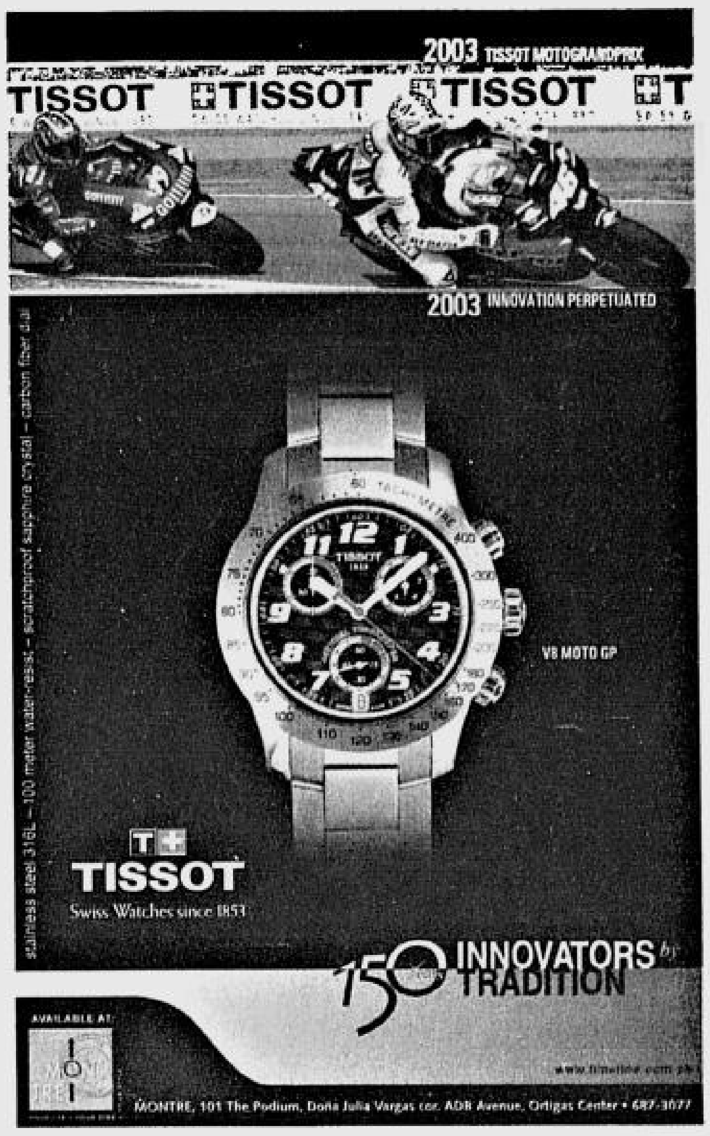
SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Hardwood Classics - Bulls vs Jazz, Game 5, 1997 Finals; 8:30 a.m.; Solar Sports - Despite suffering from a stomach virus, a visibly ill Michael Jordan scores 38 points, including a last-minute three-pointer to secure victory for the Bulls. Chicago goes on to win Game 6 and their fifth NBA Title of the 1990's
Lakers vs Sixers; 8:30 a.m. (r- 9 p.m.); Star Sports; Spurs vs Sonics; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports - Los Angeles tries to get back into contention for the western crown when it takes on Philadelphia while defending champion San Antonio visits Seattle.
CYCLING: Tour of Langkawi 2004; 2:30 p.m.; Star Sports - See if Filipino cyclists can peddle their way to victory as Stage 1 begins in Malaysia.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**



2003 TISSOT MOTOGRANDPRIX
2003 INNOVATION PERPETUATED
V8 MOTO GP
stainless steel 316L — 100 meter water-resist — scratchproof sapphire crystal — carbon fiber dial
TISSOT
Swiss Watches since 1853
150 INNOVATORS by TRADITION
AVAILABLE AT:
www.timeline.com.ph
MONTRE, 101 The Podium, Doña Julia Vargas cor. ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center • 687-3077

Fash forges do-or-die fifth game

MVP Simon silences critics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PETER June Simon looked every inch the Most Valuable Player yesterday.

Scoring 15 of his game-high 28 points in the fourth quarter, Fash Liquid Detergent hammered out a 72-64 victory over Welcoat Paints that sent the PBL Platinum Cup best-of-five championship series to the limit.

Simon, who suffered his first scoreless spell in the league on the day he surprisingly won the MVP award Tuesday, shot 14 of the Liquid Power's first 14 points in the final period and Fash went on to tie the series at 2-all.

The victory, fashioned before an overflow crowd at the Pasig Sports Center that included resigned commissioner Chino Trinidad, sent both teams into a rubber match for the title tomorrow at the Philsports. Attendance is free.

"I didn't get to sleep last night. I wanted to prove to them that I deserve the award," said the 23-year-old Simon, who is set to play for Purefoods in the PBA. "Perhaps I was able to show them who truly deserves to become MVP."

Welcoat protested Simon's choice by playing with arm bands carrying the words "Tangkay MVP."

GAME TOMORROW *(Philsports)*
2 p.m.—Fash vs Welcoat (Game 5)

With Fash trailing by eight, 51-59, with seven minutes left, Simon drilled a three-pointer, igniting his scoring rampage against Welcoat's tough roster of guards, among them the guy he beat for the MVP award, Jercules Tangkay.

A former pro, who led the MVP derby based on statistics, Tangkay finished with only 11 points this time.

In a key highlight of the game, Tangkay blocked Simon's layup but the ball bounced off the Fash guard's face and went straight into the basket, tying the score at 60-all with three minutes to go.

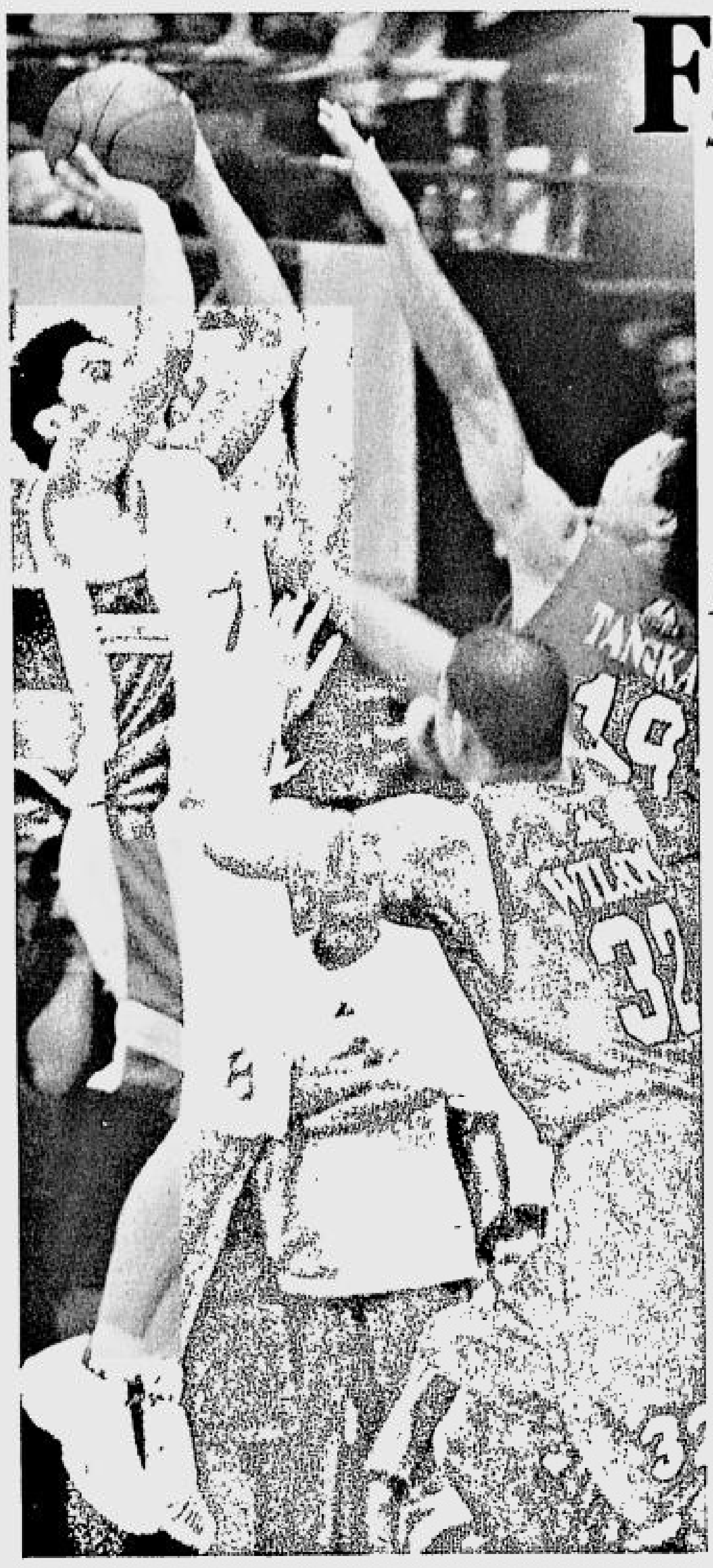
After draining another triple, Simon scored off Tangkay's outstretched arms then pointed at the stunned Welcoat bench.

Scores:

FASH 72—Simon 28, Alvarez 12, Salangsang 8, Fonacier 6, Tan 6, Dy 4, Gonzalez 3, Benedicto 3, Gelig 2, Mercado 0, Dualan 0.

WELCOAT 64—Yap 23, Pingris 11, Tangkay 11, Cuan 5, Wilson 5, Omolon 4, Sotto 3, Artadi 2, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 18-19, 27-30, 51-54, 72-64.



UNSTOPPABLE: Simon unloads the shot that gave Fash the lead for good, with less than two minutes left. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Trinidad bent on quitting

TRINIDAD

THE WELCOAT Paints players and management yesterday offered an apology and the PBL board reaffirmed its support, but commissioner Chino Trinidad stuck to his decision to step down.

Team owners rejected Trinidad's resignation and tried to convince him to reconsider his decision during an emergency board meeting yesterday before Game Four of the Fash Liquid Detergent-Welcoat Paints title encounter.

But Trinidad, who showed up at the venue and watched the game, said his decision is final.

"I appreciate the call of the board for me not to step down, and at the same time I am elated by the gesture

TRINIDAD/ A26

PATENTED
SHARK by SURESTEP
Stainless Oval Side Step Tube with Signal Lights
Available for REVO, CROSSWIND & ADVENTURE
FREE! DASHIELD FOR EVERY SET PURCHASE AT
1013 EDSA Q.C.
Tel #: 410-3067 / 410-3065 or 372-3640

MORE HAIR or NO HAIR?
The Choice Is Yours

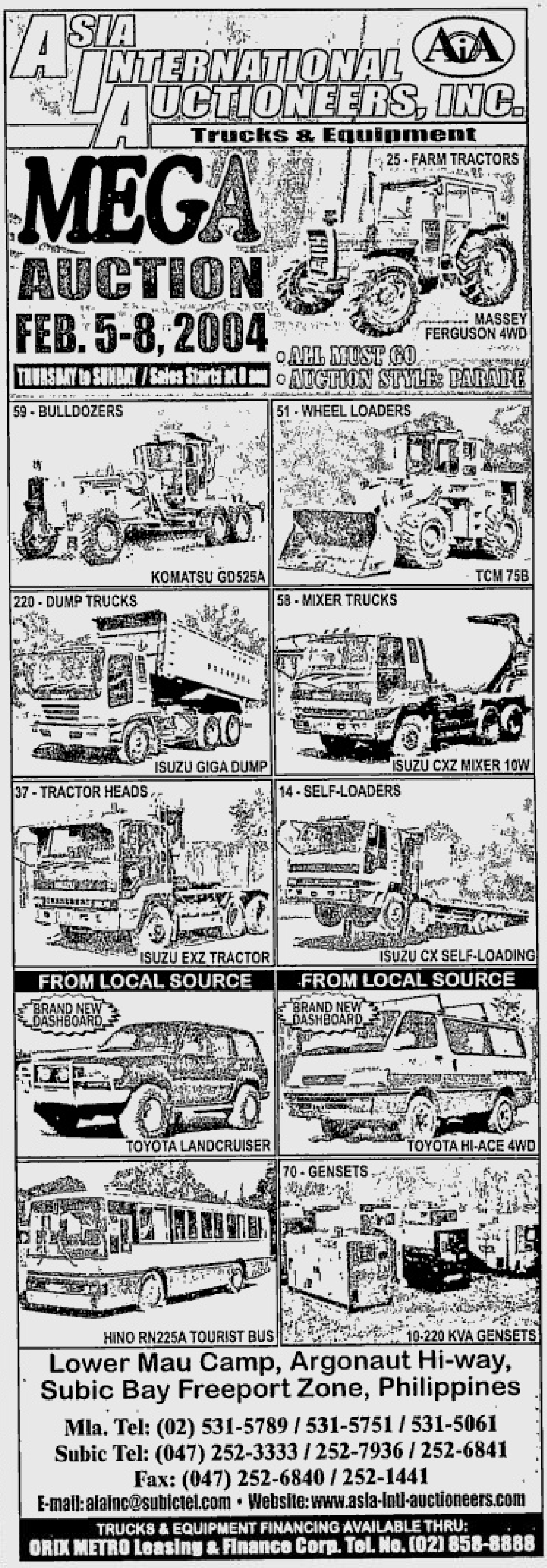
PROS
Every time you look in the mirror, you'll feel happy and lucky to have a full head of hair.
You'll look younger with a more handsome appearance.
You'll always feel confident with your self-image and you're more socially active.

CONS
Just looking at your reflection in the mirror makes you feel depressed.
You'll look more advanced in years and less attractive.
You'll feel insecure with yourself and you'll worry about how others will see you.

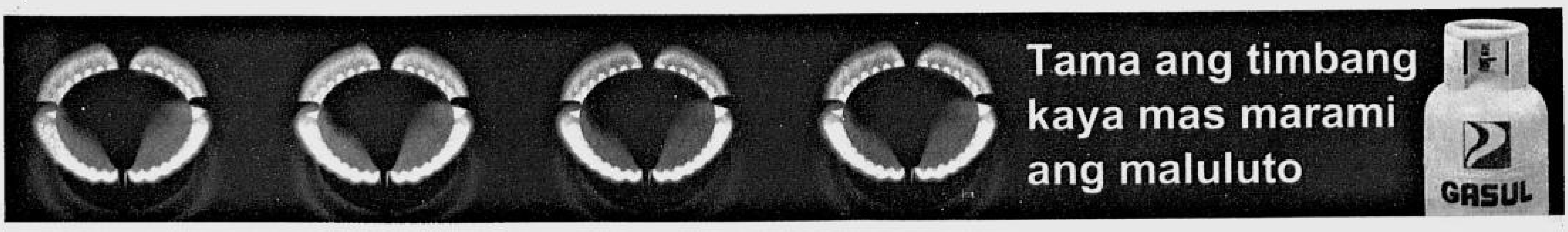
If you think you're left with no choice but to face the inevitability of baldness, think again. Svenson International is the intelligent choice for solving hair loss. Stop excessive thinning, receding and/or falling or re-create the natural thickness of your hair.

Call Svenson today and discover the best choice for having more hair again.

MAKATI 819 3336 816 1260
QUEZON CITY 372 6631 372 6632
BINONDO 243 0128 244 8913
ALABANG 842 1389 842 4181
CEBU 032 2340851 032 2340853
OPENING HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8AM-7PM SATURDAY: 8AM-3PM
Svenson INTERNATIONAL YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD



ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
AIA
Trucks & Equipment
MEGA AUCTION
FEB. 5-8, 2004
THURSDAY to SUNDAY / Sales Starts at 8 am
25 - FARM TRACTORS
MASSEY FERGUSON 4WD
○ ALL MUST GO
○ AUCTION STYLE: PARADE
59 - BULLDOZERS
KOMATSU GD525A
51 - WHEEL LOADERS
TCM 75B
220 - DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU GIGA DUMP
58 - MIXER TRUCKS
ISUZU CXZ MIXER 10W
37 - TRACTOR HEADS
ISUZU EXZ TRACTOR
14 - SELF-LOADERS
ISUZU CX SELF-LOADING
FROM LOCAL SOURCE
BRAND NEW DASHBOARD
TOYOTA LANDCRUISER
FROM LOCAL SOURCE
BRAND NEW DASHBOARD
TOYOTA HI-ACE 4WD
HINO RN225A TOURIST BUS
70 - GENSETS
10-220 KVA GENSETS
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Mla. Tel: (02) 531-5789 / 531-5751 / 531-5061
Subic Tel: (047) 252-3333 / 252-7936 / 252-6841
Fax: (047) 252-6840 / 252-1441
E-mail: aiainc@subictel.com • Website: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. Tel. No. (02) 858-8888



Tama ang timbang
kaya mas marami
ang maluluto
GASUL

Ginebra taps former top USBL draft selection

By June Navarro

THE BARANGAY Ginebra Kings didn't want a one-man offensive show for an import, so they dumped Jarmaine Walker for a reinforcement whose paramount concern is team play.

The Gin Kings have decided to tap Bingo Merriex, a 6-foot-8 banger out of Texas Christian U, after discarding the high-scoring Walker for the PBA Fiesta Conference, which unfurls on Feb. 22.

Player-agent Mike Gonzales of AMG Sports said Merriex, who could easily play the power forward and small forward positions, would arrive Saturday from the United States.

Merriex, selected by the Texas Rim Rockers as the USBL's top rookie draft pick in 2003, was the leading scorer and rebounder of the TCU Horned Frogs during his college days.

Merriex registered 11.5 points and 4.8 rebounds during his final year at TCU, a USNCAA school, in 2002.

A reliable source said that Barangay Ginebra had opted for the versatility of Merriex than the scoring ability of the ball-hogging Walker.

The same source also noted that Merriex was three to four inches taller than Walker.

Playing for the FedEx Express in 2002, Walker consistently posted double-double figures and is an impressive shooter from the three-point region.

Merriex completes the lineup of imports in the Fiesta Conference, a transition tournament designed to prepare the PBA for its new calendar beginning October.

Other imports who have either signed up or committed to the rest of the teams were Carlos Willer (Red Bull), Alvin Jefferson (FedEx), Sta. Lucia's Lamayn Wilson, Galen Young of Alaska, Randy Holcomb (Talk 'N Text), San Miguel's Art Long, Shell's Marek Ondera, Mark Sanford of Coca-Cola and Purefoods' Lenny Cooke.

PEACE OFFER?

Buhain to NSAs: Let's talk

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain invited yesterday the presidents of disgruntled national sports associations to a meeting on Monday in an attempt to defuse the growing rift between the NSAs and the agency.

Buhain's request for a dialogue came on the same day the NSAs met in a "make-or-break" meeting late yesterday at the Dusit Hotel, where athletes were also reportedly invited to share their opinion on the move to oust Buhain.

Table tennis association head Victor Valbuena, one of the nine NSA heads spearheading the move against Buhain, said more leaders are expected to affix their signatures in the letter petition addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The main beef against Buhain was the PSC chief's "lack of wisdom and ability" to lead.

The group claims support from 16 of the 40 NSAs so far.

At least 12 NSAs are certain to attend the dialogue with Buhain. Among them are the athletics, basketball, tennis, weightlifting, pencak silat, sepak takraw and taekwondo associations.

Athletics association president Go Teng Kok said he would ask his fellow NSA presidents to settle the issue amicably.

But the outspoken Go, who has refused to sign the petition, said he would "force Buhain to commit" to meeting the NSA demands.

Meanwhile, tennis association chief Buddy Andrada questioned the hands off-stand of the Philippine Olympic Committee regarding the row. Andrada didn't sign the petition.

FINISH
speedo

TRIATHLON TOAST: Asian aquathlon champion Josephine Pilapil of Palawan hits the tape to win the ladies junior title of the 2004 National Triathlon Championships in Guimaras last weekend. Triathlon's biggest nationals was hosted by Gov. Rahman Nava and sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Speedo, Gatorade, Monoc, David Day Spa and POC. Applauding at right is TRAP president Tom Carrasco.

Ateneo, La Salle dominate Samsung Interscholastics

ATENEO and La Salle-Zobel defended their respective titles with easy victories even as St. Benedict and Miriam College joined them in the winner's circle at the close yesterday of the the Samsung Interscholastics at the Southwoods Legends course.

Ateneo (Vendrick Tan, John Gobing, Don Padilla, Kevin Lachica and Simon Valerio) streaked to a 13-point victory over La Salle in boys' college play.

Not to be outdone, La Salle-Zobel (Justin Tambunting, Miko Alejandro, Ramon Garcia and Yannick Tuason) ran away with the boys' high school crown.

The St. Benedict trio of Jik-Jik Abdon, JR Gonzales and Don Martin Fernandez captured the boys' elementary title while Miriam made up of Marie Dhel dela Paz, Riva Maria Galveztan and Erika Salinas took the combined girls' high-school-college competition.

In the individual divisions, Brixton Aw of St. Benilde topped boys' college and Miko Yee rallied to rule boys' high school. The exciting boys' elementary event saw John Kier Abdon beat Wolen Superal and Joaquin Arroyo, who was the lone representative from Xavier School.

The other winners were Debbie de Villa of GCF in the girls' high school-college category, Cyna Marie Rodriguez of Ecole de Monde Michel in girls' elementary and AR Ramos of La Salle-Greenhills and Poveda's Christina Potenciano in the special 10-years and under.

Samoans' 6-0 rout eliminate Blu Boys

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—The Philippines' bumped into a newcomer but talented Samoa squad Thursday, took a severe 6-0 beating and bowed out of the quarterfinal race in the XI Men's World Softball Championship at the Smokefree Ballpark here.

The Blu Boys actually got a free ride to the sudden death phase of the tougher side of the qualifier when Australia blanked Samoa, 8-0, in five innings coupled with South Africa's 6-1 romp over Venezuela earlier in the day.

But the Samoans rode on their fast start and clutch hits in the winner-take-all match to frustrate the Filipinos, who failed to flash the spunk and form they dished out in beating the South Africans, 9-6, and the Netherlands side, 6-1.

The Blu Boys thus finished the elims with a 2-5 card, still a no mean feat considering they had to make do with an injury-hit 12-man roster in a high-powered competition on their side of the draw.

The Samoans seized control right in the first inning with two runs and went on to feast on the RP pitching rotation which gave up seven hits in all.

Samoa thus advanced to the quarterfinals with three wins against four losses while unbeaten New Zealand ruled the bracket with six victories, not counting its match against Canada. The Canadians earned the second berth in the double page playoff while Australia gained the third seat.

The United States, one of the only two unbeaten teams, led the seven-team pool B with five straight wins, followed by Japan, the Czech Republic and Argentina.

LINESCORES:

				R	H	E
Samoa	200	112	0	6	7	1
RP	000	000	0	0	4	4

RP Open venue up Monday; 4 courses eyed

By Jong Arcano

THE SHOW must go on.

National Golf Association of Philippines president Rod Feliciano declared this yesterday amid the growing possibility of a sudden change in venue of the DHL-Philippine Open golf championship with barely three weeks left to tee-off time.

Feliciano told the Inquirer that the only thing certain as of yesterday was that the Open will be held on Feb. 26-29.

"We will stage the Open that week, that's for sure. Whether it will be at Mimosa, we will know come Monday," said Feliciano after an emergency meeting with the members of the organizing committee.

Feliciano has set Monday as the deadline for them to determine whether Mimosa can still fast-track the preparations for the course and its facilities. He is set to meet with Clark Development Corp. head Emmanuel Angeles in the morning and both parties are expected to come up with a final decision.

Through its secretary-general Benny Gopez, the NGAP had expressed its displeasure over the slow pace of work at Mimosa.

Feliciano said that he was surprised to know that there are least four clubs still willing to host the Open.

Foremost among them is Tagaytay Midlands, the very exclusive course whose management had long expressed their desire to host the Open. The others are Luisita in Tarlac, the 72-hole Eagle Ridge complex and many-time Open host Riviera.

OPENS FEBRUARY 11

EVER WISHED THAT YOU WERE DEAD?
Wishing Stairs
MAGIC 89.9
Presented by Cinema Service | Produced by Cine 2000
CINE2000
CINEMA SERVICE

Childish Chino

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CHINO Trinidad must be very, very angry. Judging from his statements after the fact (the fact is, he resigned as PBL commissioner), he quit in anger over moves by some PBL people that, according to him, had tended to bring him down.

But anger is the mother of irrationality.

Proof: "They won't get rid of me," Chino said of some PBL people who he said were out to get him. "I may no longer be the commissioner, but I will remain in the league."

How he would remain in the league after he had announced his resignation on Tuesday night, he answered it himself.

"I may reconsider my decision to return to my post," Chino said.

Irrationality breeds contradictions.

His official line when he resigned was "the glaring disrespect to authority and the league by some people."

He was obviously referring to some Welcoat players who wore bands that read "Tangkay MVP." That was to protest the selection of June Peter Simon of Fash as the league MVP.

For the record, Simon was fifth in the statistical points. But he was first in the media and player voting. That clinched it for him by the score of 2-1 (two wins, one defeat).

James Yap of Welcoat had been favored to win, but with the media and players not voting for him, Simon got the plum.

I think there was nothing wrong there. Everything was in order. After the rules had been followed to the letter regarding the selection of MVP, Simon emerged the winner.

I think there was also nothing wrong in the move by some Welcoat players to wear those "protest bands."

Even a **fool** has his own opinion and he should not be stopped from **airing** it

In the first place, the league has no explicit rules on such actions.

In the second place, this is still a country that guarantees freedom of expression. Those players were merely expressing their opinion. In a free country, there is free speech, freedom of movement, freedom of belief.

If those Welcoat players believed Yap to be the MVP and expressed it in the manner they did, let them be. Respect their opinion. After all, as I said, this is a free country and everybody is allowed to express his own opinion for as long as it does not blatantly break any law of the land, as in inciting to sedition or rebellion. Even a fool has his own opinion and he should not be stopped from airing it just because he is a fool, perceived or otherwise.

Chino should not have taken it as a show of disrespect against his authority when those Welcoat players did what they did.

At the end of the day, the protest was merely that: a protest.

At the end of the day, the protest did not change anything: Simon remained the MVP.

If I were Chino, I would have even gone a step farther by commending those Welcoat players for espousing the cause of press freedom.

If I were Chino, I would have gotten hold of the mike at halftime of Tuesday's Game 3 and egged on the crowd to give the Welcoat players a round of applause "for having the guts to uphold the tenets of freedom of expression," instead of herding together the sportswriters and announcing he was resigning as commissioner.

I'm sorry, Chino, but that was a very childish act. Very un-commissioner-like.

Anyway, to people asking me if Chino is indeed not the PBL commissioner anymore, my answer is: Only the PBL board has the final word on this.

I read in one of the papers yesterday that Dioceldo Sy, the PBL chairman, was not accepting Chino's resignation. Oh, well, that's another twist to the issue.

In my mind, Chino remains PBL commissioner. He has yet to resign officially from the league. His resignation before the media takes effect only when he repeats the same before the PBL board. You don't resign in the media, Chino. The media is not your employer; the PBL is.

OK, you have resigned and the papers have reported it. But what if Sy and the PBL board reject it?

In case you've forgotten, the media can never reject your resignation. It can only report it. The way it did when GMA said in 2002 that she was not running in the May 10 presidential elections.

Get the drift, Chino?

RP netters open bid vs Chinese

Pinoys face foes of unknown strength

THE COUNTRY'S No.1 player Johnny Arcilla takes on Lu Hao and compatriot Adelo Abadia battles top Chinese bet Yu Xinyuan today when the Philippines opens its Davis Cup campaign against China at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Center in Pasig City.

The Filipinos suffered a humiliating 5-0 whitewash at the hands of the Chinese in the first round of last year's Asia-Oceania Zone Group II competitions but are expected to turn things around this time. They meet a team that's missing the two players who spearheaded the Chinese rout in Wuhan last year.

The visitors, though, enjoys a 3-2 edge in head-to-head duels with the Filipinos, who are expected to play Joseph Victorino and Rolando Ruel Jr. in the doubles

Chinese team leader Ren Yi said doubles specialist Xu Ran is the only remnant of last year's victorious Chinese squad. The team's fourth member is Li Jing-yi.

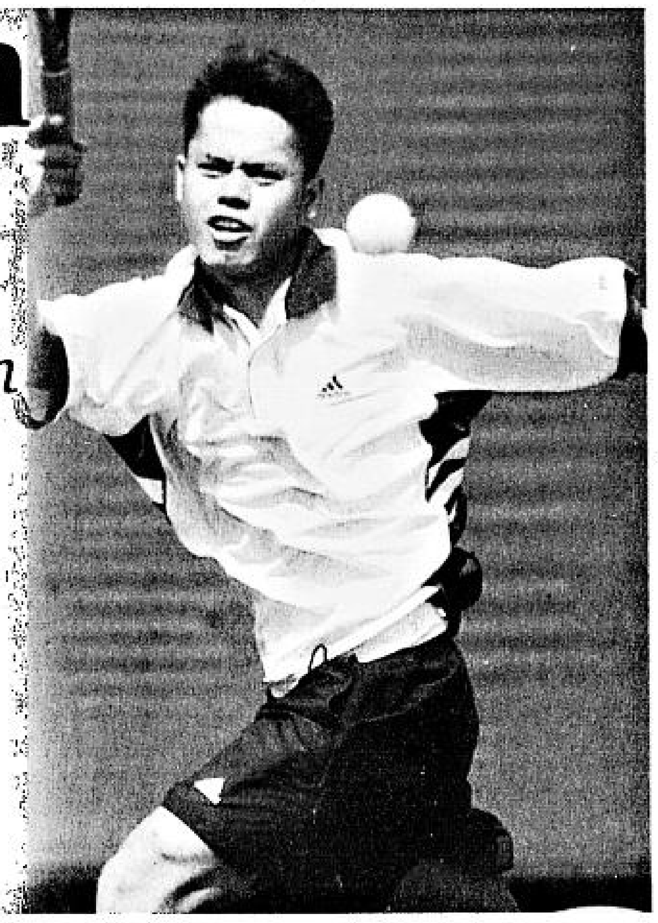
China's No. 1 and 2, Zhua Benqiang and Zeng Shaoxuan, are competing in Europe.

Yu is ranked in the top 600 by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), with Hao about 300 notches below.

Coach Martin Misa and non-playing captain Johnny Jose said China's strength in singles could not be gauged because Yu and Lu are relatively new in Davis Cup play.

A victory for the Filipinos will set them up for a semifinals meeting with the winner of the Kuwait-Hong Kong tie, while the loser will tangle with the loser of that tie for the right to remain in Group II next year.

Despite its defeat to China last year, the Philippines kept its seat in Group II by routing Kazakhstan, 4-1.



ALL eyes are on Arcilla (above) and Abadia who play in singles today.

COKE FINALS

Barotac hot Go-for-Goal crown bet

STA. BARBARA, Iloilo—Six of the country's best youth football teams dispute the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national finals set Feb. 6-10 here.

With last year's champion La Salle Academy of Iligan knocked out of the fray, Luzon's Masbate National Comprehensive High and Ateneo de Manila University, Visayas' Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High and Don Bosco Technical Institute (Negros Occidental) and Mindanao's Maco National High and Andres Bonifacio College will vie for the champion's trophy.

Competition is expected to be keen, with the Luzonians out to upstage two-time national champion and favorites Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High.

Iloilo Gov. Neil Tupas, Sta. Barbara Mayor Isabelo Maquino, Vice Mayor Rodolfo Delgado Jr., Coca-Cola Export Corp. public affairs and communications director J.B. Baylon, Philippine Football Federation chair emeritus Rene Z. Adad, known as the "father of Coke Go-for-Goal," and PFF general secretary Miguel Villadolid will be guests of honor during the 1:30 p.m. opening ceremony at the Sta. Barbara football field.

RODRIGO

Rodrigo seeks OPBF title in Osaka Feb. 15

By Salven L. Lagumbay

PHILIPPINE flyweight king Edgar "Bombardero" Rodrigo attempts to become the country's fifth Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation titlist when he challenges reigning Japanese champion Noriyuki Komatsu on Feb. 15 in Osaka.

Rodrigo, a mandatory challenger, will fly to Japan on Feb. 13 accompanied by manager Jun Sarreal and Filipino judge Nick Giongco.

The southpaw Rodrigo, parading a 9-2-3 win-loss-draw record with 4 KOs, is best known for dethroning RP flyweight champion Z Gorres by knockout on June 1 last year.

The OPBF fight is Rodrigo's first since that fight, but he claims to be in great shape with some 92 rounds of sparring to his credit. Among his sparring partners were Elderd Romero, Albert Cesa, Celso Danggod, and Dondon Jimenea.

Komatsu will be defending the title he won over Son Jung Oh in September 2002 for the fourth time against Rodrigo. In his first defense, he stopped Rolly Lunas in two rounds.

GYMMICKS
FITNESS CENTRE
Grand Opening on Feb. 06, 2004
at San Francisco Garden
Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City.
Telephone # 533-9298

GOLF ROUNDUP

Uratex bagtoters tourney Feb. 17

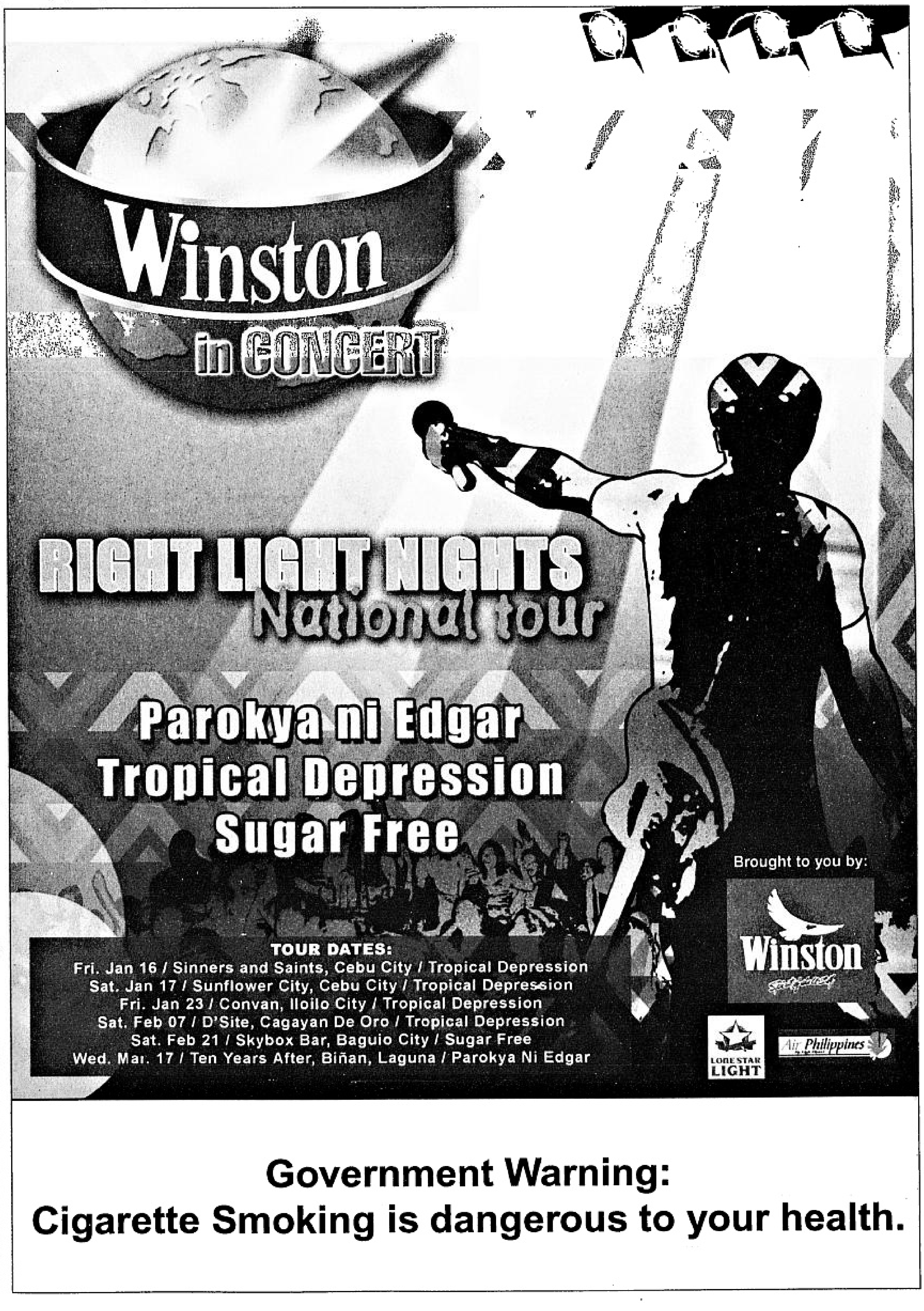
BAGTOTERS take centerstage again when the 15th Uratex National Caddies Championship tees off on Feb. 17-20 at the Valley Golf and Country Club's short but tough Executive Course in Antipolo City. The tournament, overtaken by the death last year of its benefactor, businessman Robert Go Cheng, stakes a total cash pot of P2 million and is open to all the country's finest caddies. Tournament co-chairs Col. Abe Villanueva and RGC Group of Companies chief accountant Manding Santos said Cheng's wife Nati and children Pinky, Peach and Big Boy want the championship staged to pay tribute to the Filipino caddie's No.1 supporter who started the tourney in 1988 at the Capitol Hills Golf Club. Cheng died of heart attack last Oct. 29. He was 58. The organizing committee also includes Taby Tabaniag, Jake Ayson and Roger B. Flores. "We would like to express our gratitude to the Cheng family for continuing Robert's laudable project," Villanueva said. Santos thanked Valley for taking the place again of Capitol Hills, which is undergoing renovation. The entry field in what is one of the most unique championships for caddies is expected to top last year's 178 players from 46 teams in men's play and 60 players from 17 teams in the ladies competition.

Valley tilt honors founding fathers

THE DON Celso Tuason and Valley Founders Cup, the club's annual championships, is set April 22-25, organizing committee chair Francisco del Rosario announced yesterday. The staging of the major tournament is the membership's way of honoring Valley Golf and Country Club's founding fathers. The club launched the 72-hole tournament five years ago in honor of Tuason and his fellow founding members—Ernest Kahn, Aurelio Montinola Sr., Antonio Araneta, Francisco Ortigas Sr., Henry J. Belden and Jaime Velasquez. The seven founded the club on the foothills of Antipolo City in 1958 with the goal of "promoting and fostering the gentleman's game of golf." The club, now known as South Course, opened in 1961. The Philippine Golf and Development and Equipment Inc. is this year's major sponsor, with Pacsports Philippines Inc. and Makati Skyline as tournament presenters. DHL-World Wide Express, UCPB, Caltex Philippines, Taisho Pharmaceutical (Lipovitan), GMA Marketing, and Waterfront Hotel and Casino are major hole sponsors. Excel Cargo and Water R Us are the other backers. At stake are two cars and a round-trip ticket for one to the United States, courtesy of GM Autoworld Makati, Nissan Commonwealth and Pacsports.

Pasay Golf Classic slated at Villamor

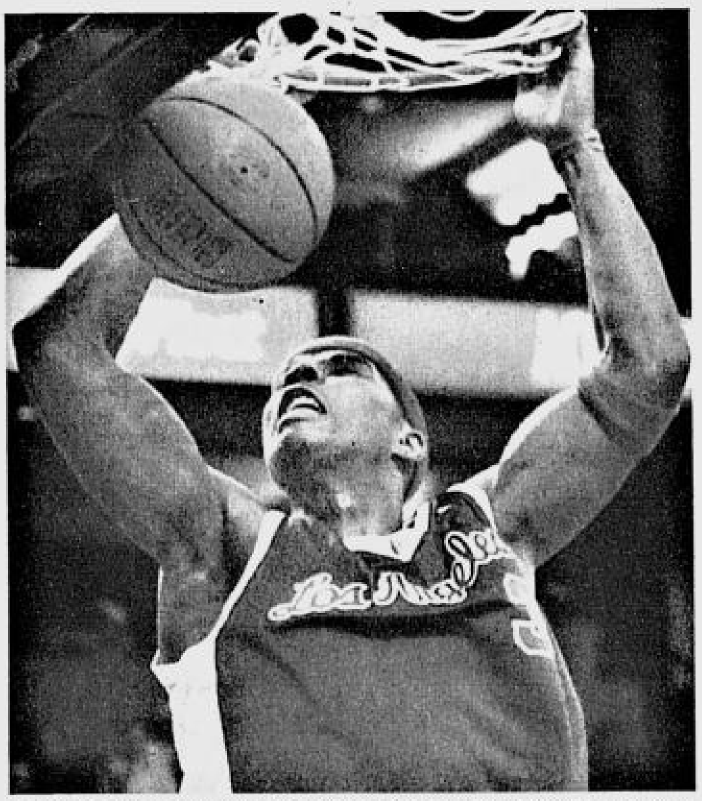
REGISTRATION for the first Pasay City Peewee Trinidad Golf Classic set March 26 at the Villamor Golf Club has started, the tournament's co-chairs said yesterday. Trinidad organized the tourney to raise funds for the indigents and the various programs of Pasay City, said co-chairs Jun Amante and Gen. Charlie Tañega. Entry fee is P2,500. Players wishing to join the event may call the secretariat at 820-1157. Aside from Amante and Tañega, other members of the tournament committee are Gen. Francisco Atayde, Commodore Danny Pizarro, Freddie Mendoza, VGC general manager Gen. Bert Sabularse, tournament director Fred Suarez, Peter Ruebenfeldt, Edgardo Rubiano, Toots Aquino and Jake Ayson, Taby Tabaniag, Roger B. Flores, Francis Siasat and Nilo Fuentebella. The 18-hole tournament is open to all amateurs and seniors. Suarez expects the number of entries to reach 200.



TOUR DATES:
Fri. Jan 16 / Sinners and Saints, Cebu City / Tropical Depression
Sat. Jan 17 / Sunflower City, Cebu City / Tropical Depression
Fri. Jan 23 / Convan, Iloilo City / Tropical Depression
Sat. Feb 07 / D'Site, Cagayan De Oro / Tropical Depression
Sat. Feb 21 / Skybox Bar, Baguio City / Sugar Free
Wed. Mar. 17 / Ten Years After, Biñan, Laguna / Parokya Ni Edgar

Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is dangerous to your health.

Shaq returns, powers Lakers past Cavaliers


LOS Angeles Clippers' Quentin Richardson dunks against the Celtics. AP

NEW YORK—Shaquille O'Neal returned from a one-game suspension to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 111-106 overtime win over the host Cleveland Cavaliers in NBA play on Wednesday.

O'Neal, sidelined as a consequence of a post-game rant in Toronto on Sunday, notched a season-high 37 points and pulled down 12 rebounds.

His freethrow woes continued, however, as he was just 9-of-20 from the line.

"Every game is important," O'Neal said. "We have let a lot of games slip away." He had plenty of help from Gary Payton, who added 30 points, also a season's best.

Rookie sensation LeBron James, snubbed by All-Star Game selectors, kept the Cavs in the game with a 32-point effort, including three three-pointers in the extra period.

He could have won it at the buzzer, but tossed up an air ball from 20 feet.

Carlos Boozer added 25 points and 16 rebounds for Cleveland, which had won five of its previous six games.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Kenyon Martin scored 24 points and pulled down 13 rebounds and Richard Jefferson notched 21 more as the Nets downed the Miami Heat, 99-88.

New Jersey won every quarter to improve to 5-0 under new coach Lawrence Frank, who was making his home debut.

All-Star Game addition Jason Kidd pitched in 18 points and 11 rebounds.

In Salt Lake City, Utah coach Jerry Sloan will have to wait at least two more nights to claim his 900th victory, as the Jazz were upset, 95-79, by the lowly Chicago Bulls. *Reuters*

Complete results: LA Clippers 95, Boston 86; Toronto 110, Orlando 90; Memphis 103, Washington 101; New Jersey 99, Miami 88; Dallas 113, New Orleans 104; Houston 103, Milwaukee 89; LA Lakers 111, Cleveland 106 (ot); Atlanta 97, Minnesota 89; Chicago 95, Utah 79; Portland 101, Phoenix 97. AP

RP cage tryouts Monday

By Roy Luarca

PROMISING basketball players need not go to Metro Manila to be discovered. Starting Monday, National coaches Boyzie Zamar and Dong Vergeire will be scouring the country to find them.

Dubbed the "RP-Cebuana Lhuillier Tryouts ng Bayan," the nationwide search will officially kick off at 9 a.m. at the Corpus Christi Gym in Cagayan de Oro City.

Zamar, however, is already making the rounds, visiting Dumaguete and Bacolod yesterday to make sure that everything is in place when the tryouts shift to the Visayas.

Embarking on a long-term program, RP basketball team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier conceptualized the two-month tryouts in coordination with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The talent search has been simulated at the Benedictine International School, in Pasig and at Chiang Kai Shek, where it drew over a hundred participants.

Apart from the tryouts, Zamar and Vergeire will also supervise basketball clinics for young talents aged 12-17 as part of the BAP outreach program.

They will be assisted by Ricky Calimag, Dennis Madrid, Celino Cruz and Richie Melencio, all members of the victorious Philippine team to last year's Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

After Cagayan de Oro, the Mindanao phase of the tryouts will proceed to Davao City from Feb. 11-13 and General Santos City (Feb. 13-15).

The Visayas leg will cover Iloilo from Feb. 15-17, Bacolod (17-20), Dumaguete (20-23), Cebu (23-26), Ormoc (26-28) and Tacloban (Feb. 28-March 1).

To be visited in Northern Luzon are Baguio (March 8-11), Pangasinan (11-13), Tarlac (13-15) and Pampanga (15-17).

Also hosting the tryouts are Albay (March 22-24), Lucena (24-27), Batangas (27-29), Laguna (29-31) and Cavite (March 31-April 1).

Hewitt targets mark in Davis Cup opener

SYDNEY—Lleyton Hewitt is on the verge of breaking one of his country's proudest sporting records when Australia begins its defense of the Davis Cup against Sweden in Adelaide on Friday.

The former world No. 1 is just one win behind Adrian Quist's long-standing record of 24 singles victories and could pass it if he wins his two matches.

Hewitt will get the chance to equal the record in his home town when he takes on Swede Robin Soderling in Friday's second singles rubber and could possibly better the mark against Thomas Enqvist in Sunday's reverse singles.

"Any record like that is pretty incredible and to have the opportunity to at least tie it in Adelaide would be an awesome place to do it," Hewitt told a news conference.

Australia's Wimbledon finalist Mark Philippoussis will play Enqvist in the opening match of the World Group on Friday while Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs will pair up against Jonas Bjorkman and Joachim Johansson in Saturday's doubles.

Philippoussis, the hero of last year's win over Spain in the final, has been at the center of a public row over his disappointing showing at the Australian Open when he was knocked out in straight sets by Morocco's Hicham Arazi, but the 27-year-old said he is unworried by the criticism.

"I'm not ever one for trying to get attention off the court, I just do my thing and I've got a job to do this weekend," he said. *Reuters*

ELS celebrates sinking another birdie en route to his 60. AFP

Els fires 60

MELBOURNE, Australia—Ernie Els began his quest for a third consecutive Heineken Classic title with a course-record 12-under-par 60 Thursday and a four-shot lead over New Zealand's Michael Campbell after the first round at Royal Melbourne.

Els flirted with a 59—he was 12-under after 14 holes. On the par-4 15th, he missed the fairway, then the green and after chipping to six feet, missed the putt for par. But he birdied the 16th to go back to 12 under.

On 17, he left a 35-foot birdie putt three feet short, and made par. On 18, his approach from the adjoining 17th fairway went to the back fringe of the green, and his birdie putt went nearly three feet past the hole.

But Els made the par putt to finish at 29-31—60. He doffed his cap to thank the crowd and then tossed his ball into the small gallery around the 18th hole.

Els, taking advantage of windless conditions on the par-72 composite course, had nine birdies and an eagle on his first 13 holes on his way to his best round as a professional. His previous best was a 61 in the 1994 Dubai Desert Classic.

Following New Zealand's Campbell's 64 and tied for third are Mahal Pearce of New Zealand and Australians Wade Ormsby and Craig Carmichael, all at 65.

Nick Faldo had a 68, Greg Norman 71 and former US amateur champion Ricky Barnes 72. *AP*

Trinidad bent on quitting

From page A23

of apology from the Welcoat players which I accept wholeheartedly," he said.

But he said he has set his sights on other things and that he believes he has contributed enough to the league in the four years that he served as commissioner.

The meeting was presided by PBL chair Dioceldo Sy and attended by Fash's Cecilio Pedro and Jack Huang, acting commissioner Tommy Ong and Welcoat's Raymund Yu.

"We expressed our full trust and confidence in the leadership of Mr. Trinidad," said Sy. "We had no plans to remove him from the position and we recognize his contributions to the league."

Before Welcoat's Rodel Celo led the traditional invocation at the start of the game, he asked forgiveness in behalf of the Welcoat team from Trinidad, who was sitting near the TV panel.

Visibly touched by the gesture, Trinidad smiled and then waved at the direction of the Welcoat bench to acknowledge their apology.

Welcoat drew Trinidad's ire in Game 3 when the Paint Masters showed up with arm bands with the words "Tangkay MVP" shortly after Peter June Simon of Fash was declared MVP over Welcoat's Tangkay.

Marc Anthony Reyes

REUTERS

TRIPLE Olympic champion Jones

Jones to vie for 5 Olympic golds

NEW YORK—Marion Jones could challenge for five gold medals at this year's Olympic Games in Athens.

"There's a possibility of going for five golds," the triple Olympic champion, who returns to the track on Friday at the Millrose Games in New York as her preparations for Olympic year get underway, told reporters on Wednesday.

"It's only a possibility." The American has not raced competitively for 18 months after taking time off to give birth to her son by sprinter partner Tim Montgomery.

"At the moment I'm just excited to be back. I've missed it." Jones hopes to win gold in the 100-m, 200-m, long jump and the 4x100-m and 4x400-m relays.

In Sydney four years ago, she won gold in the 100-m, 200-m and 4x400-m relay and picked up bronze in the long jump and 4x100-m relay.

She is the only athlete, male or female, to attempt to win gold in the five events.

However, she cautioned: "Some say the Olympic trials are tougher than the Games. I want to make the (US) team first." She said she was eager to focus on making a successful comeback, starting with the indoor 60m at Madison Square Garden on Friday. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

SCOOP tackles PSC assistance today

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission's assistance to the different national sports associations the past six years, the last two under current chair Eric Buhain, will be tackled in today's edition of the SCOOP sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Buhain is also expected to answer the charges hurled against him by some disgruntled NSA presidents who have petitioned Malacañang for his ouster. Other guests are Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza, Mon Liboro, Jeff Manibay and Jimmy Narvaez, chief organizer of the second season of the Philippine Professional Boxing League.

Inner Wheel Clubs hold bowling tourney

THE INNER Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, composed of wives of Rotarians, will have its biggest National Bowling Tournament today at the Power Bowl of the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati City. "This is a kick-off event of the forthcoming National Conference of the Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines to be held at the Manila Hotel on Feb. 15-16, according to national chair Gloria "Baby" Golez. World bowling champion Bong Coo has been invited to grace the occasion starting at 9 a.m.

Café Lupe non-master registration on

REGISTRATION for the 2nd Café Lupe Non-Master chess tournament is now open at the Café Lupe Restaurant in Guadalupe, Makati City. Divided into Open (all non-masters) and Kiddies (14-under) divisions, the tournament supported by Alvin Carranza unfolds on Feb. 14-15 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary gym. Entry fee in the Open is P350 while in the Kiddies it's P250. For inquiries, call 471-3417/27 or call/text 0922-8036106 and look for Marissa Pangilinan of Gemini Talents Corp.

MCC rapid chess reels off Sunday

THE MCC Unrated Rapid Chess reels off at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the 4th floor of the J&F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd., near LRT 2 Anonas Station and beside St. Joseph Church in Quezon City. The event is open to all beginners, unrated and rated players with ratings not over 1800. Interested parties may proceed and register at the venue on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. or before the tournament starts. Call MCC at 826-8560 or 0916-8521069 for other details.

6TH DAN

Dr. Noli Gabriel (right) receives his 6th dan blackbelt certificate from Grandmaster Sung Chon Hong, Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president. The first Filipino to be promoted to Kukkiwon (6th dan), Gabriel is training director of the PTA and head coach of the RP taekwondo team.

LS Greenhills dumps PCU booters

THE 2ND-ROUND of the NCAA football tournament kicked off recently at the La Salle Greenhills pitch in Ortigas with four high school squads in contention. Day One action saw first round topnotcher CSB-La Salle Greenhills beat Philippine Christian University, 4-0, and the San Beda Red Cubs demolish Colegio de San Juan de Letran, 5-0. In the goal scoring category, Justin Catubay of CSB-La Salle Greenhills leads the pack with 22 goals; Kevin Binas of PCU has 17, Joseph Rojo of SBC has 13 while Joshua Almenar (PCU), Adrian Paul Lustre and Lorenzo Garcia (CSB-LSGH) have 12 goals each.

Team Navy tops Xtreme Island Race

TEAM Navy, composed of Panfilo Suson and Hazel Madamba, topped the recent 2nd San Mig Light Xtreme Island Race and got the P100,000 top purse. The country's biggest adventure expedition took eight teams of two to race through the Banaue terraces, the white waters of Kalinga and the rugged terrain of Pinatubo. Catch the San Mig Light Xtreme Islands Race 2 every Sunday of February starting Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., on Solar Sports.

Blue Blade Sweaters share top honors

THE BLUE Blade Sweaters figured in a three-way tie for the championship in the just-concluded P6-M Candelaria 7-Cock Derby at the Iloilo Coliseum in Jaro, Iloilo. Roosters produced by Edwin Deles out of Sonny Lagon's famous left-nose family of gamebirds composed of 3/4 Sweater & 1/4 yellow-legged McLeans scored a perfect 7 wins to share championship honors and the top purse with the WRV entry of William Villarica and Bulacan province's gubernatorial candidate Mayor Jessie Viceo. Raffy Yulo trained and conditioned the roosters for Deles' entry, Ito Palaf 1214. Lagon's own entry, Blue Blade, finished with 6 wins out of seven matches, losing only its second fight.

Big Fight sa Pasay 5-cocker starts

BIGTIME cockfighting shifts to the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit as the "Big Fight sa Pasay 5-Cock Derby" begins at 5 p.m. today. Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Complexor 3000 are derby sponsors. More than 70 matches are lined up today, according to hosts PCC manager Eric de la Rosa and LCC Leonard Group. Participants include former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza, fresh from winning the World Slasher Cup, Gov. Ito Ynares, Ramon Mancenares, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gerry Ramos, Mayor Jessie Ciceo, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Blandy Tolentino, William Go, Boy Royo, Pol Estrellado and Benjie Lim. For inquiries, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Philippines Asean Paragames host

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo recently signed Executive Order 275 tapping the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled (Philspada) to host the 3rd Asean Paragames in 2005. "We thank the President for the Executive Order," said PSC commissioner Michael Barredo, who is in charge of Sectoral Concerns and incoming chair of the Asean Para Sports Federation.

Batang QC Olympics on tomorrow

THE THIRD Batang QC Olympics will open tomorrow at the Amoranto Memorial Sports Complex in Quezon City. Close to 3,000 young athletes, aged 9 to 21, will take part in the kick-off rites of the 16-day sports activity that will highlight action in athletics, basketball, badminton, swimming, table tennis, karatedo, taekwondo and volleyball.

Squash tilt features tight matches

HARD-FOUGHT matches kicked off the first leg of the Milo/SRAP national Squash Circuit recently at the Manila Polo Club courts. Anton Gonzales, JR Garcia and Frankie Pelino hammered out four-set triumphs in the Open class, while Edgar Lee, Edmar Carillo and Patrick Jinon were extended to five sets before pulling through in Class B of the tourney organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo, with Dunlop as official ball.

BEAM-ZEST-O RUN WINNERS

Champion Robert Garcia (right), third placer Lester Landan and runner-up John Lery Villarino (middle) show their medals after topping the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy opening leg recently in Pila, Laguna.

2 wannabe divas produce own records

SHOW STOPPER

By Nini Valera

RANDY HORMILLOSA

TOKEN Lizares

AMARI

WHEN wannabe divas in search of recording contracts face blank walls, they produce their own albums.

A singer, who goes by the single name Amari, and another warbler known as Token Lizares, have taken the plunge, hoping for the best.

The record business is risky: Record piracy is at an all time high, recording costs can hit the roof, and promo budgets can go sky high.

Major labels have held back in producing records for local talents, effectively putting in the back burner Original Pilipino Music.

Bucking the trend

But Amari insists on bucking the trend with her self-titled OPM album.

"If no one will produce my record, I'd do it myself," she said.

The 26-year-old singer has just returned to the country after two years of singing with a band at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental in Hongkong. Her homecoming was depressing, she said, because of the music she heard being played on radio.

"Everything is cover versions or revivals," she wailed. "Our singers are merely imitating foreign talents."

Her experience abroad had been different, she said.

"Foreign guests (at Captain's Bar), most of whom were white, would always request me to sing Filipino songs like 'Anak,' 'Dahil Sa Iyo,' and even Sharon Cuneta's 'Sana'y Wala ng Bukas,'" Amari recalled.

"Filipino singers, and our original songs, are also being aped by foreign performers abroad. They imitate us."

But it's the other way around in the Philippines, Amari realized. Here, a Michael Jackson clone still thrives even after almost two decades of imitating his weird idol's moves and grooves.

Token, who is also a veteran of the Asian music circuit and intimate hotel lounges, has a different reason for coming out with her own album "Ikaw Lamang Sinta."

Sign from God

"My friends pushed me into doing it," she claimed. "They said it is not yet too late for me to become famous."

The fortysomething singer also believes that God had a hand in this twist in her career.

"I prayed for a sign from God," she confessed.

The sign from God was that a group of her friends had gotten together and pulled their resources to produce her OPM CD in just a week.

Another sign was how she managed to pack the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Hotel one night in November last year.

"The odds were really against me then," Token said.

A typhoon was lashing out on the streets of Metro Manila. Token's friends were already sending her text messages that they couldn't make it to her show. On the way to the Hyatt, Token's driver hit a man on a motorcycle and had to rush him to a hospital. And before she could start her signature version of "I Believe," a brownout hit the venue. But she sang the opening number anyway—a ca pella.

More important, Token said, the Calesa Bar was Standing Room Only. This led to the hotel PR Joanne Lorenzana, who was once also a singer, to ask her to do another show in the hotel, Token said.

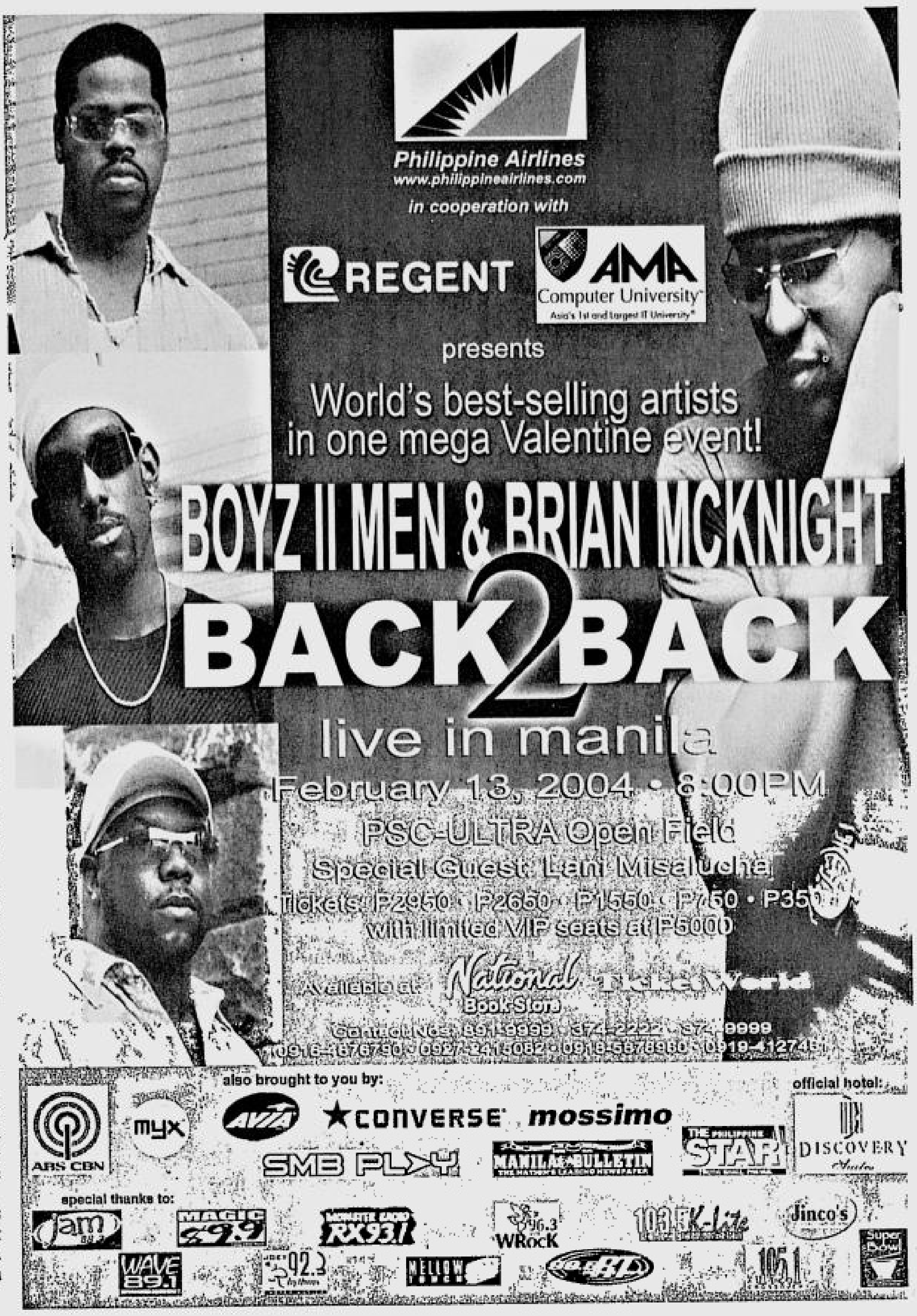
"I couldn't do a Christmas show because I was promoting my album," she said. "Maybe, I can do a pre-Valentine show."

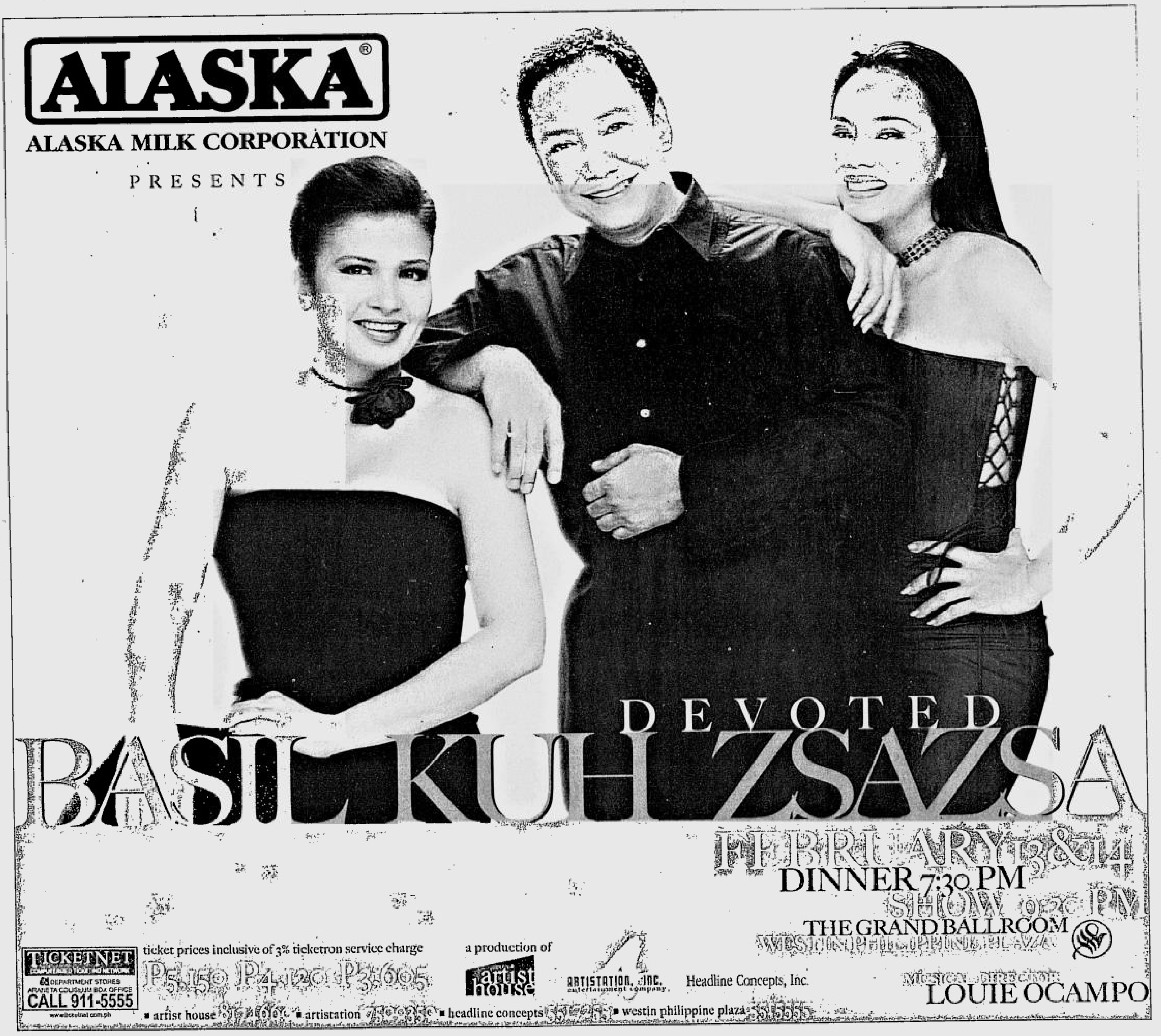
Amari, too, has been on the promo route since her album was released last November.

Breaking the bank

"So far, the crowd's reception has been warm," she said. "I don't expect to be a big star, anyway. I just want to break even with my CD. The promotion cost is more than triple the cost of production."

But for the two singers, it's better to break a bank account than suffer a broken dream. Missing out on a solo album will also shatter their hearts.


Philippine Airlines
www.philippineairlines.com
in cooperation with
REGENT
AMA Computer University
Asia's 1st and Largest IT University
presents
World's best-selling artists in one mega Valentine event!
BOYZ II MEN & BRIAN MCKNIGHT
BACK 2 BACK
live in manila
February 13, 2004 • 8:00PM
PSC-ULTRA Open Field
Special Guest: Lani Misalucha
Tickets: P2950 • P2650 • P1550 • P750 • P350
with limited VIP seats at P5000
Available at: National Book Store Ticket World
Contact Nos: 891-9999 • 374-2222 • 374-9999
0916-4676790 • 0927-2415082 • 0918-5878980 • 0919-4127481
also brought to you by:
ABS CBN myx AVIA ★CONVERSE mossimo SMB PLAY MANILA BULLETIN THE PHILIPPINE STAR
official hotel:
DISCOVERY Suites
special thanks to:
Jam 88.3 MAGIC 89.9 RX93.1 96.3 WRocK 103.5 K-Lite Jinco's WAVE 89.1 92.3 MELLOW TOUCH 99.5 RT 105.1 Super Bowl


ALASKA®
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION
PRESENTS
DEVOTED
BASIL KUH ZSAZSA
FEBRUARY 13 & 14
DINNER 7:30 PM
SHOW 9:30 PM
THE GRAND BALLROOM
WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
LOUIE OCAMPO
TICKETNET
COMPUTERIZED TICKETING NETWORK
DEPARTMENT STORES
ARANETA COLISEUM BOX OFFICE
CALL 911-5555
www.ticketnet.com.ph
ticket prices inclusive of 3% ticketron service charge
P5,150 P4,120 P3,605
a production of
artist house
ARTISTATION, INC. entertainment company
Headline Concepts, Inc.
■ artist house [illegible] ■ artistation [illegible] ■ headline concepts [illegible] ■ westin philippine plaza [illegible]

The Voice booms at Corik's Bar

ONCE again the Filipino artist shined before an all-American audience.

This time, singer Krystine Valdez brought home this distinction when she sang the blues before an all-American audience at the famous BB King, Times Square, New York City.

It only took two lines of Krystine's rendition of an Aretha Franklin song to get the audience's resounding applause. From that moment, her nervous apprehension about her acceptance by a foreign audience vanished completely. She now refers to this Big Apple show as the experience of a lifetime.

Local audiences can now catch Krystine at 9 p.m. every Thursday of February at Corik's Bar, Kingswood Towers on Pasong Tamo, corner Vito Cruz, Makati. Call 897-3247 for details.

VALDEZ wows an all-American crowd.

Love songs to start up the romance

SHOW TIME

TURN on the radio, tune in to music channels, listen to any number of songs.

Chances are, the songs are all about love. Since time immemorial, artists, poets and songwriters have tried to capture the essence of love. Only a few have succeeded.

How does one articulate something that defied definition?

But if there's anything the hopeless romantics succeeded in doing, it's producing some of the best love songs in pop music history.

One hopeless romantic is the group Spiral Starecase, the late '60s pop band that recorded "More Today Than Yesterday," a song that has remained a staple in the love industry.

Lead vocalist Pat Upton, a self-confessed romantic, wrote the "More Today Than Yesterday," capturing perfectly the feeling of being in love. Upton's songs are light-hearted and cheerful, calling to mind simple dating pleasures like dance parties and long comfortable walks in the park.

Tickets for the Feb. 13 concert are available at TicketWorld (Tel. 891-9999). Tickets for the Feb. 14 dance concert are available at the Hard Rock Cafe entrance.

Boyz II Men, McKnight at Ultra

THEY promised to come back. And so they will.

A year after performing in Manila and loving what they saw, soul group Boyz II Men and multiplatinum singer/songwriter Brian McKnight return for a back-to-back show at the PSC-Ultra Open Field on Feb. 13, 8 p.m.

"We've felt more love here than we have all year long," chorused Nathan Morris, Wanya Morris and Shawn Stockman of Boyz II Men the last time they were here for a concert last year at the Fort. Brian, whose most recent trip here was for a show at Araneta Coliseum, can't forget "how everyone knew my songs and the love I got from the Filipino people."

For a touch of homegrown talent, the Boyz and McKnight will guest Lani Misalucha in the show.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets, or call 891-9999/374-2222/374-9999.

Aga to leave . . .

From page A30

"Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal" (1993) and "May Minamahal" (1994).

"Honestly, I'm more pleased about my movies' box-office success than my winning acting awards," Aga said. "The people who come to see my movie are my jurors. The result of ticket sales is my trophy."

"In his first movie this year, he would be playing the role of a yacht's man in a still untitled film that would pair him with television soap actress Kristine Hermosa. Aga will also shoot his third movie with Regine Velasquez late this year.

"Two movies a year in the longest slump the movie industry has ever experienced is enough reason for Aga to want to stay in the Philippines.

"But it would take more to convince Aga, who also dominates product endorsements in television commercials and billboard advertising, that the country still has a bright future. Aga's star appears to shine brighter.

A scene from
the erotic thriller
"IN THE CUT"
starring
MEG RYAN

IN THE CUT

APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS BY MTRCB

From controversial and highly acclaimed director Jane Campion comes the steamiest and scariest movie of the year, IN THE CUT.

Campion whose previous film THE PIANO was banned by the local censor was more lucky this time. IN THE CUT was approved without cuts by the MTRCB. Fans of Meg Ryan will be shocked by her role which requires full nudity and bed scenes.

Ryan plays Frannie, an English teacher who's jolted when a murder victim is found near her New York apartment. Perhaps recognizing a penchant for danger in her own personality, she gets sexually involved with Malloy, a detective (Mark Ruffalo) investigating the case - and who might be the culprit himself. She grows still more disturbed when her sister (Jennifer Jason Leigh) is also killed.

Also present are ambiguous characters who may be red herrings or murderers: a former boyfriend of Frannie's who's now a surgeon; a current student of Frannie's who writes an essay about a serial killer: and Malloy's partner.

ADVT

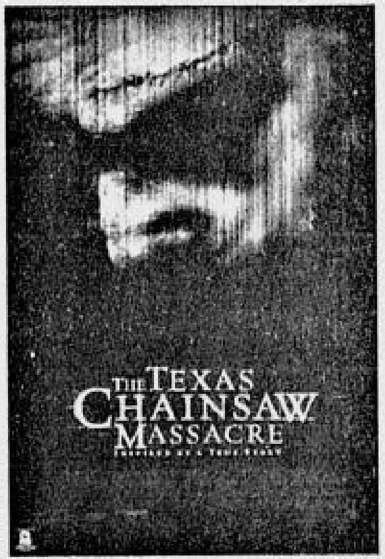
SM CINEMA

what to watch
HORROR

"THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE"

In 1973, Texas police were dispatched to the remote farmhouse of Thomas Hewitt, a former head-skinner in Travis County. They found butchered body remains which shocked a nation. With a chainsaw and grotesque flesh masks of his victims, the killer became known as "Leatherface." News were splashed throughout the state of Texas: "House of Horror Stuns Nation - Massacre in Texas."

now showing



For screening schedules, dial 8339999

up next

February 11
Subject to MTRCB Rating

THE BONE SNATCHER

February 18
MTRCB Rating: P13

February 25
MTRCB Rating: R13

February 25
MTRCB Rating: R13

Give the Gift of Entertainment. Give the SM Movie Cards.
Get Complimentary Passes when you buy in bulk. For orders, call 831-7000 local 2680 to 2682.

julia roberts
kirsten dunst
julia stiles
maggie gyllenhaal
mona lisa smile

now showing
at
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

Screening Time:

GALLERIA
Cinema 1 THX 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
Cinema 5 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
ERMITA
Cinema 1 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
METRO EAST
Cinema 3 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05

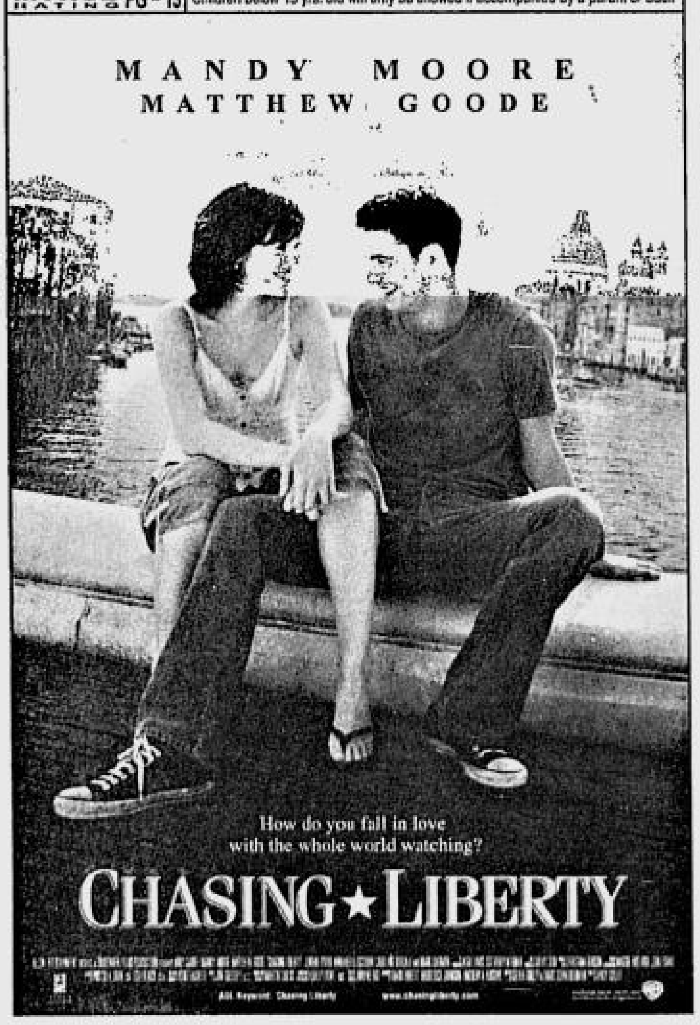
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

for movie inquiries,
pls. call our movie access no:
635-555

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18
Kaya mo bang labanan si satanas?
From Julio Fernandez, the king of horror comes the most terrifying movie from Spain

EVIL RISES FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL.
DIABLO
FILMAX PRESENTS 'DIABLO' MARK FROST ISABEL BROOK JEFFREY COMBS
PRODUCED BY JULIO FERNANDEZ DIRECTED BY BRIAN YUZNA

OPENS FEBRUARY 11 !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



SUPER FUN, SUPER SPOOKY THRILL RIDE ! OPENS FEBRUARY 11 !
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

EDDIE MURPHY
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
the Haunted Mansion
CHECK YOUR PULSE AT THE DOOR... IF YOU HAVE ONE.

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

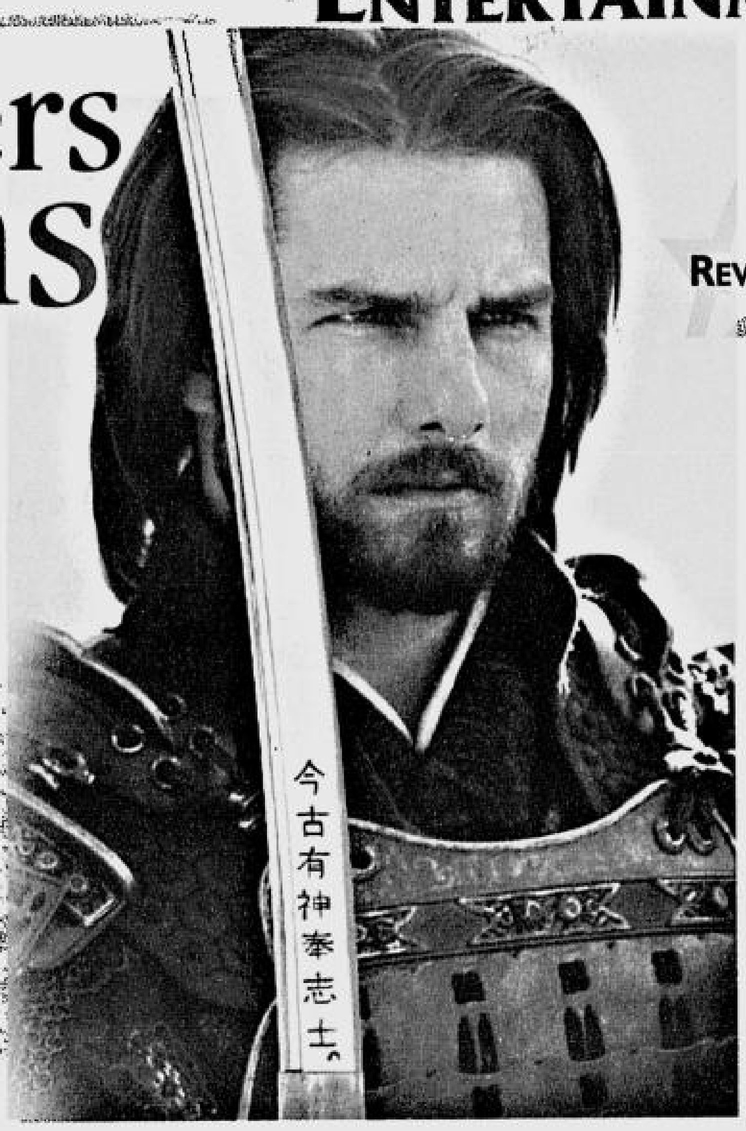
More movies on pages B13, 14 and 15

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Brothers in arms

REVIEW

By Ruel S. De Vera



TOM Cruise is the grizzled Western warrior enlightened by the Eastern art of war.

BY NOW, every Tom Cruise movie has become yet another vehicle bearing the latest iteration of Tom Cruise, seriously earnest movie star.

By every estimation, "The Last Samurai" is a fairly ambitious Cruise project, the new Cruise being a combination of the titular character from 1996's "Jerry Maguire" and Ron from 1989's "Born on the Fourth of July."

Directed by Edward Zwick, "The Last Samurai" takes a broken-down American soldier named Capt. Nathan Algren (Cruise, looking more somber and yet more photogenic than usual) and inserts him into 19th century Japan, ostensibly to train Japanese conscripts in art of modern war according to the wishes of the young Emperor Meiji (Shichinosuke Nakamura).

Tug-of-war

Once there, Algren finds himself in the middle of a tug-of-war between old and new Japan, between the government and the forces of traditionalist samurai Katsumoto (veteran Japanese actor Ken Watanabe).

When Algren is captured by Katsumoto after a disastrous engagement, Algren learns all about Japanese society and the warrior's code, Bushido. During his time in Katsumoto's camp, Algren finds himself transforming from hostile captive to loyal comrade. But when the Japanese army comes to snuff out Katsumoto's resistance, Algren finds that he must choose which side he really is on.

Zwick is best known for directing the 1989 civil war epic "Glory" and 1998's "Courage Under Fire." "The Last Samurai" unfurls almost seamlessly as an oriental take on "Glory," from the painful teething process down to the doomed final stand. There is even one particular scene, where Algren, hands his journals to photographer Simon Graham (Timothy Spall) before the fateful final engagement. The scene appears to be a reenactment of a scene from "Glory" where Matthew Broderick hands letters for his parents to a journalist prior to their tragic charge.

Working on a story by John Logan ("Gladiator"), Zwick competently, if predictably, crafts "Samurai" as one man's journey to redemption, as Algren, learning to speak Japanese as well as to essentially fight and live as a samurai, begins to emerge from the trauma and cynicism left over from Algren's experience during the American Army's violent campaign against the Native Americans. Every scene is lit softly, and so much is shot in dramatic slow motion. The battles turn out picture-perfect, but also predictable and familiar. Thus, every death is effectively foretold, every tragedy foreshadowed. More evident is the annoyingly pat ending that actually seems out of place. Most of "Samurai" made sense, at least, until the ending. In effect, "Samurai" feels like a meticulous, made-in-USA facsimile of a Japanese period film; an ersatz samurai movie by way of Hollywood.

No surprises

All this makes "Samurai" a well-made, nuanced movie that possesses absolutely no surprises whatsoever. Cruise, with his picturesque locks and pale good looks, does a creditable job as the soldier who discovers a new way of fighting and a reason to fight for. All the while, it is obvious that what Cruise is doing is being Tom Cruise among these Japanese actors. Essentially, he is channeling Richard Gere as the token gaijin (foreigner) in Akira Kurosawa's 1991 film "Rhapsody in August." But even as Cruise simmers silently as the sensitive swordsman, "Samurai" is stolen from Cruise at the moment that Watanabe rides into the movie as Katsumoto.

Overcoming the awkward decision to have Katsumoto converse with Algren almost completely in English, Watanabe is essentially playing a cardboard character: a soulful warrior who writes poetry and remains firmly committed to the old ways of living the warrior's life. Watanabe presents instead a proud man who can not but live with honor, and is brokenhearted by the decisions of his former pupil, the callow Emperor. Instead of the battle scenes, it is when Watanabe is sitting still, moving only his head and his mouth as he speaks to Algren, that Katsumoto achieves three-dimensional solidity.

Good sign

Also leaving her mark despite an obvious lack of lines, the lovely Koyuki pads quietly and effortlessly through the movie as the bereaved Taka.

It is usually a good sign when Cruise shares the screen with a scene-stealing talent, as in the cases of Dustin Hoffman in 1988's "Rain Man" and Cuba Gooding, Jr. in "Maguire." In "Samurai," Watanabe helps inject verve and personality to what would otherwise be a tame and very straightforward period war movie.

Similarly, Cruise does better under accomplished directors like Barry Levinson, Cameron Crowe and Oliver Stone. While Zwick does not stray far from what he knows, "The Last Samurai" emerges as less than the sum of its impressive parts, a surprisingly leisurely and by-the-numbers Tom Cruise vehicle that is saved by the ferocious and timely appearance of Ken Watanabe, a true brother in arms if ever there was one.

Warner Bros.' "The Last Samurai" is currently showing in Metro Manila theaters.

The season's most sentimental concert event is here.
MAXIMEDIA in association with Dove presents
Retro LOVE
John Ford Coley in Concert
Celebrate the Season of Love with these unforgettable light rock favorites, some of the most heartwarming love songs of our time:
Love is the Answer
We'll Never Have to Say Goodbye Again
It's Sad to Belong (To Someone Else)
I'd Really Love to See You Tonight
Just Tell Me You Love Me
Broken Hearted Me
and many more...
LIVE! AT THE ARANETA COLISEUM
FEBRUARY 14, 2004 • SATURDAY • 8:30 PM
TICKETS AT P150 • P300 • P600 • P900 • P1200
(plus 3% ticketron service charge)
AVAILABLE AT All SM Branches including SM Pampanga
TICKETNET 911-5555
CEBU CITY • FEBRUARY 13, 2004 • 9:00 PM
THE GREAT HALL, WHITE GOLD HOUSE, NORTH RECLAMATION
Tickets available at
SM DEPT. STORE 231-3423 / 231-0627 • DUNKIN DONUTS 346-7256 • NATIONAL BOOKSTORE MANGO BRANCH
JONIE'S AYALA BRANCH 231-0656 • WHITE GOLD HOUSE 232-6891 • GRAPHIC FX 234-0040 / 234-0048

A memorable valentines gift!
Love Shots!
Package includes:
*Professional Studio Shot with
*1 8R print with FREE IMPORTED FRAME!
*1 5R print
*2 Wallet size prints
For only P99.00!
Only at
PHOTOLINE
plenty to smile about!
Promo from January 26-February 29, 2004 only! Visit any PHOTOLINE or FOTOFINISH branch now! Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0178 Series of 2004

Major upset

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE "STAR-STRUCK" finals Sunday night had no surprises to offer in its female category, where (as expected) **Jennelyn Mercado** trounced **Yasmien Kurdi**. In the male category, however, a major upset decision saw **Mark Herras** beating the longtime favorite, **Rainier Castillo.**

The female category was no contest because Jennelyn and Yasmien both chose to compete in the finals in terms of singing, at which Jennelyn is clearly superior.

As for Rainier and Mark, their numbers in the finals focused on their dancing ability, and Mark had the decisive edge there.

Despite this, many people expected Rainier to win, because of his "killer" smile and his "F4" look. The fact that he didn't prove that the judges favored talent over appeal. It could also indicate that the Asian telenovela trend may be cooling down.

We're glad that Jennelyn and Mark won, because (for their age) they're outstanding at singing and dancing, respectively. Still, we can't see Mark building a show biz career on stellar dancing—that just doesn't happen in these parts.

What could happen would be for him to use his dancing ability as an initial springboard, then (like **Vhong Navarro** before him), he could more productively segue into comedy or boy-next-door roles.

As for Jennelyn, she's bent on making it as a singing star, so GMA should quickly whip up a recording contract for her.

What about Yasmien and Rainier? Not to worry, they've become popular enough (thanks to their daily exposure on "Star-struck") to make it as stars in their own right.

To improve his chances, Rainier should realize that, for all of his cute appeal, he sometimes has problems with proper enunciation, so he needs to take diction lessons, *pronto*.

Also, he should realize that smiling and modeling aren't major talents, so he should develop his acting ability as soon as he can.

As for Yasmien, her singing in the finals was strained and sometimes off-key, so she has to take more voice lessons. Acting lessons would also help, since her "dramatic" scenes on "Star-struck" have been rather predictable.

In any case, Jennelyn, Mark, Yasmien and Rainier will be doing a lot of performing soon, because a new show is being produced for them, as well as the 10 other "Star-struck" finalists.

Will there be a second edition of GMA's popular and successful talent search program? Yes, but it'll be for kids aged 5 to 7. This is a good move on GMA's part, because the network is sorely lacking in really good child performers.

Let's hope, though, that the very young finalists won't be subjected to the painful elimination rounds that the teen finalists had to undergo.

We suggest that weak finalists be eliminated off-cam on weekends, with only the non-eliminated ones being invited to return to the show the following Monday.

This, in fact, should have been done with the teen finalists themselves, to avoid all the on-cam tears and trauma that the "losers" had to experience, all in the name of "excitement" and cutthroat competition.

Scandinavian cuisine

SCANDINAVIAN cuisine is being featured until Feb. 12 at Makati Shangri-La's Island Café, with lovely Danish diva **Susanne Cal** and the Sveriges jazz band providing the musical entertainment.

Susanne began her performing career as a young girl. For nine years, she was the conductor of two popular gospel choirs in Denmark. She has been touring with the Sveriges jazz band to represent the Scandinavian region in countries like Malaysia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Morocco.

For its part, Sveriges is one of the most sought-after six-piece jazz bands from Sweden, captivating audiences worldwide with its rendition of American jazz, dixieland tunes, swing, mainstream, early bebop, bossa nova numbers and standards. Band leader **Eddie Bruhner** is a celebrity host in Sweden.

Easy English seminar

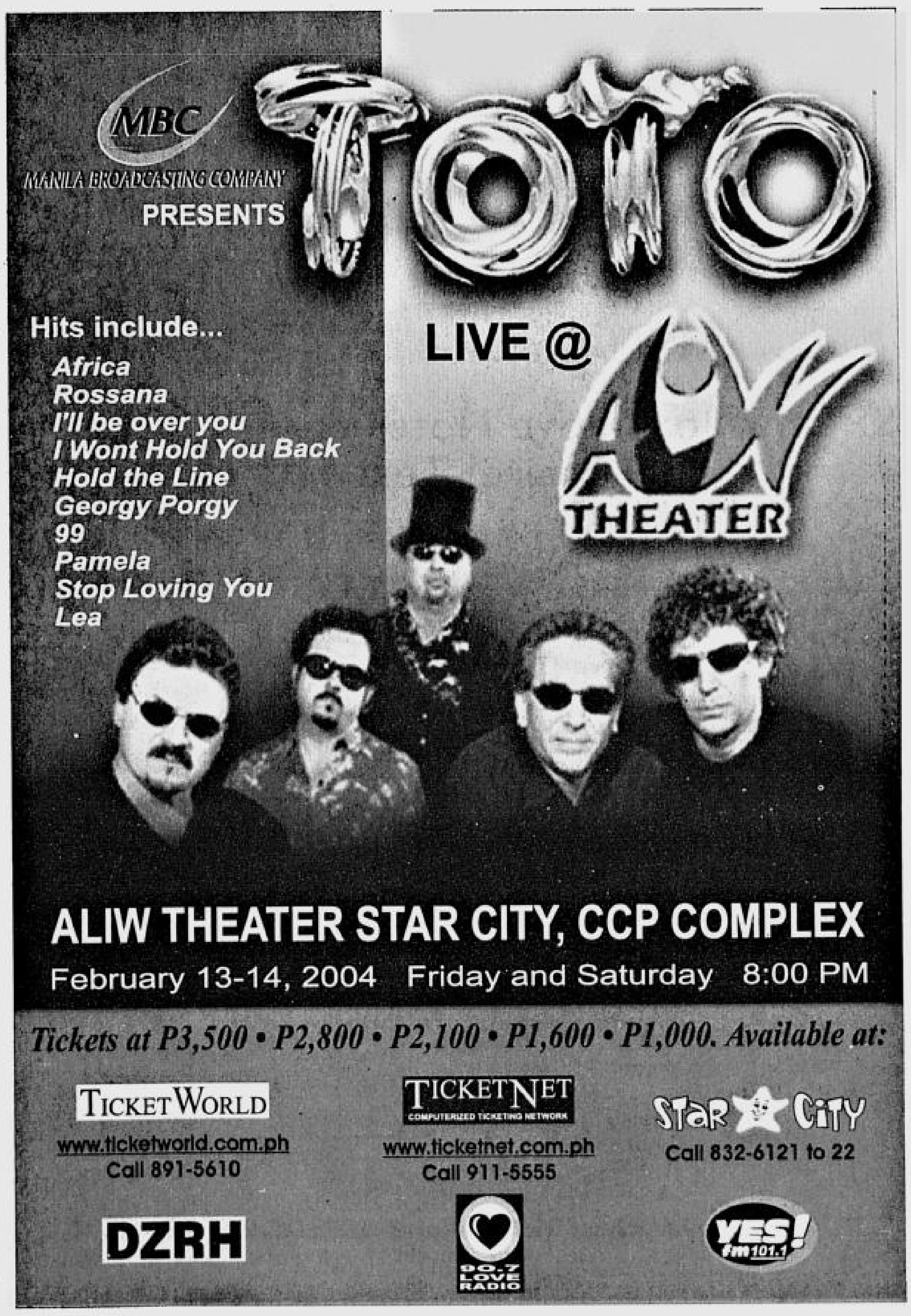
CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center holds Easy English classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at 6/F, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. corner Elizalde St. Call 809-3050.

Sessions are geared to college students and adults who want to improve their English speaking, grammar, pronunciation and writing skills.

'Runaway Jury'

JOHN Grisham's courtroom thriller, "Runaway Jury," will have sneak previews on Feb. 9 and 10 in Metro Manila theaters. Plot highlights are provided by power brokers out to buy the jury, and even shadier characters who are seeking vengeance.

Stars include **Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman** and **John Cusack.**



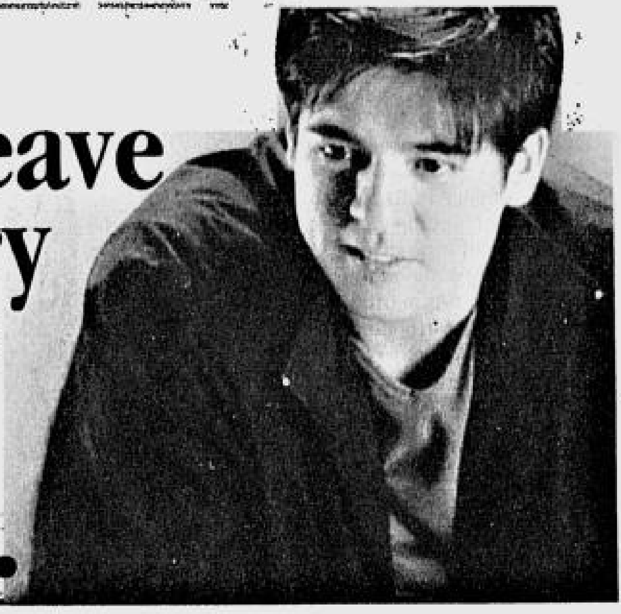
MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY
PRESENTS
TOTO
LIVE @ ALIW THEATER
Hits include...
Africa
Rossana
I'll be over you
I Wont Hold You Back
Hold the Line
Georgy Porgy
99
Pamela
Stop Loving You
Lea
ALIW THEATER STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
February 13-14, 2004 Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM
Tickets at P3,500 • P2,800 • P2,100 • P1,600 • P1,000. Available at:
TICKET WORLD www.ticketworld.com.ph Call 891-5610
TICKETNET COMPUTERIZED TICKETING NETWORK www.ticketnet.com.ph Call 911-5555
STAR CITY Call 832-6121 to 22
DZRH
90.7 LOVE RADIO
YES! fm 101.1

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Aga to leave country for kids' sake if . . .



By Marinel R. Cruz

"IF THE political and economic situations in this country do not improve, I don't have a choice but to leave and live abroad. All I can think about is the welfare of my kids."

This is according to actor Aga Muhlach, who marked his 20th year in show biz with a simple gathering with the press last Thursday. He will celebrate his 20th year in show biz with a monthlong celebration in his top-rating ABS-CBN sitcom, "Ok Fine! Whatever."

He told INQUIRER Entertainment that he is willing to give up his career for the sake of his family.

"I'd do it for my kids and for their future," he said. "Leaving the country is a big sacrifice for me and my wife because acting is what we love and it is here in the Philippines where we are most appreciated."

Aga is the doting father of 2-year-old twins Atasha and Andres with his wife, beauty queen-turned-actress, Charlene Gonzales.

Dream movie

But he is not about to give up as easily as the peso plummets against the US dollar. He has yet to play his dream role and star in his dream movie. That movie is still in his mind, and he has it running constantly in his head.

"I want to do a film on the effects of drugs in our everyday life," confided the actor, whose landmark role in the late director Lino Brocka's "Miguelito" in 1985 raised the bar for teen movies.

The anti-drugs movie would be Aga's contribution to the next generation, the actor said.

"But I'm still constructing the movie in my head, and I have yet to meet a director who shares my vision," Aga confided.

Cast in wholesome movies with every conceivable leading ladies like Sharon Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Joyce Jimenez, Vilma Santos, Aiko Melendez, Lea Salonga, Gretchen Baretto and later on her younger sister Claudine, among other actresses, Aga has established himself as a bankable star.

In 2002, his movie with Regine Velasquez "Pangako Ikaw Lamang" was a blockbuster, in a year where movie sales were on an all-time low. The following year, Aga's screen coupling with Claudine Barretto in "Kailangan Kita," again wrote history and shattered the box office.

More challenging characters

But Aga admitted that he would soon have to graduate from roles in romantic-comedy films and go for more challenging characterizations.

"*Patapos na ako sa mga* love stories (I'm almost done with love stories)," said Aga. "I want something *na mahihirapan ako* (that is more challenging).

Cast in the now teen classic 1984 film "Bagets" alongside then newcomers William Martinez, Raymond Lauchengo, Herbert Bautista and JC Bonnin, Aga is the only one among his peers that have survived the business that thrives on youth.

William left show biz after his marriage to Yayo Aguila and settled in the US. He attempted a comeback in 1998 when he returned here with his family. Raymond's singing career in the 80s did not make him a recording star. He has gone on to stage and is now a mainstay of the Repertory Philippines. Only Herbert Bautista has remained visible, but in television and in Quezon City politics where he was elected vice-mayor in the last elections.

But there was no stopping Aga's rise to fame. Even his youthful indiscretion, like having a son (Iggy Boy) with actress Janice de Belen, did not dim his shine.

Box-office success

Being a proven serious actor probably had a lot to do with Aga's 20-going-on-100 years' tenure in local movies. His performance in films like Director Lino Brocka's "Miguelito," Batang Ama," and "Sinungaling Mong Puso" affirmed his stature as one of the most exciting dramatic talents of his generation.

Both movies had Aga in landmark roles, in which he collected acting awards from the Catholic Mass Media Awards for "Miguelito" in 1985 and the Philippine Movie Press Club for "Sinungaling" in 1992.

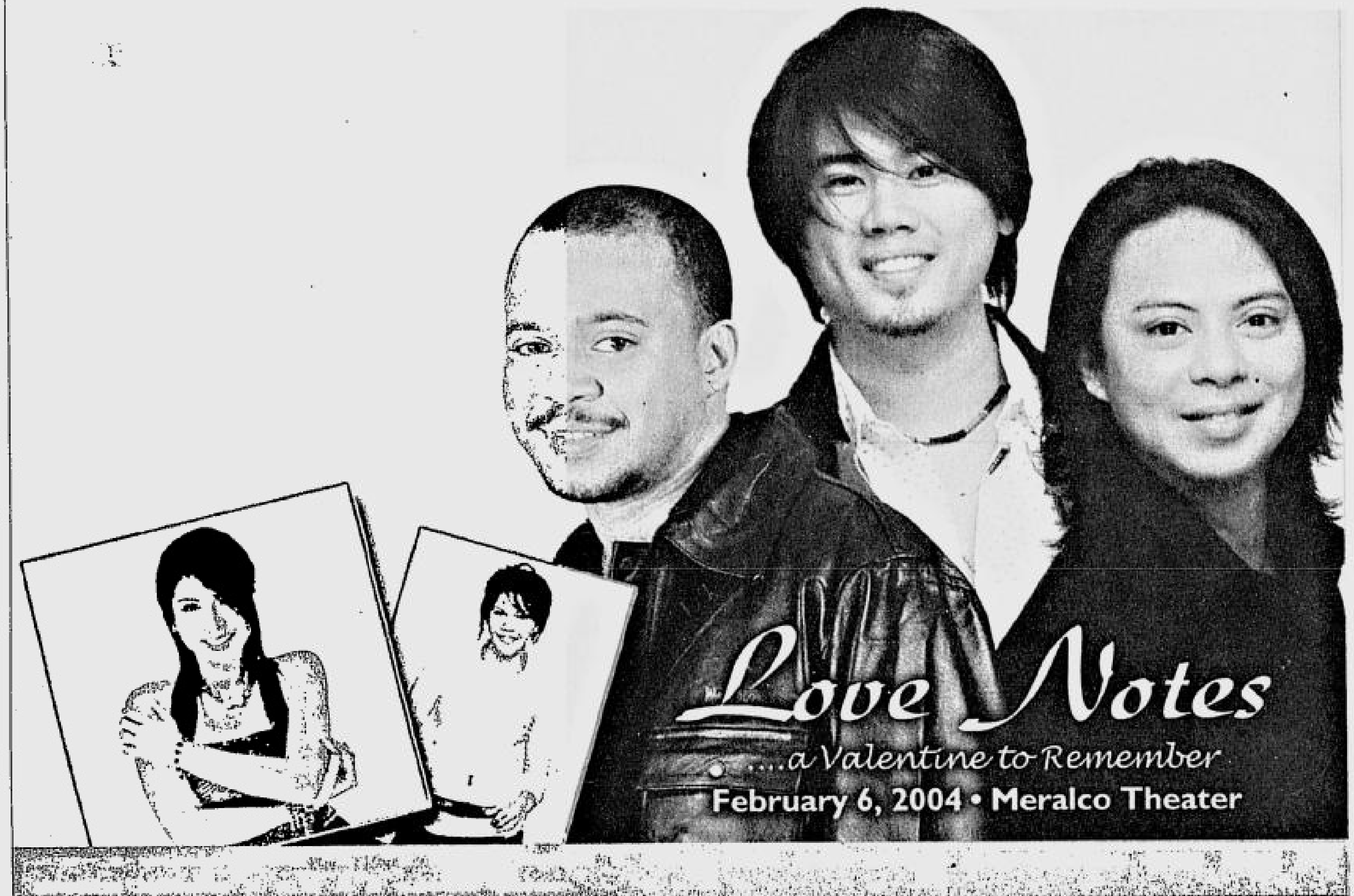
He had also garnered awards from the Metro Manila Film Festival for his work in

AGA/ A28

Afterglow
A Listening Party
Explore the warm, poignant music of Sarah McLachlan in a music video journey through her latest album, AFTERGLOW.
with special performances from Kitchie Nadal, MYMP, Emily Rey and Isha.
February 7, 2004
Saturday, 9pm
BMG
Jam 88.3 your kind of mix
the lounge
— THE —
PODIUM
18 adb avenue, ortigas center

NEW SMART Buddy.com Pre-paid
downloads
Give your celfone character!

Music From The Heart


Love Notes
....a Valentine to Remember
February 6, 2004 • Meralco Theater

Download Love Notes tones and images and you can be a millionaire! Text **HOTSTUFF** to **234** now!

Tones

Titles	Artist	Keywords
Can We Still Be Friends	Todd Rungren	CANWESTILL
What Matters Most	Kenny Rankin	WATMATERSMOST
Fallen	Lauren Wood	FALLEN
A Penny For Your Thoughts	Tavares	APENNY
Getting To Know Each Other	Ariel Rivera	GETTING2KNOW
Knocks Me Off My Feet	Stevie Wonder	KNOCKSMEOFF
Overjoyed	Stevie Wonder	OVERJOYED
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	ITMITEBU
Weak	SWV	WEAK
When I Met You	Apo Hiking Society	WHENIMETU
Jealous	Nina	JEALOUS
Misty Glass Window	Pido With Take 1	MISTYGLASS
The Man I Was With You	Jimmy Bondoc	DAMANIWASWID
If You Want To Be Mine	Luke Mijares	IFYOUWANT
True	Spandue Ballet	TRUE
Get Here	Oleta Adams	GETHERE
Be My Number Two	Joe Jackson	BEMYNUMBER2
Loving You	Nina	LOVINGYOU
Love Is All That MAtters	Eric Carmen	LOVEISALL
Friend Of Mine	Odette Quesada	FRIENDOFMINE
Breaking Us In Two	Joe Jackson	BREAKINUSIN2
Fallin	Teri Desario	FALLIN
All My Life	America	ALLMYLIFE

Text **TONE** <keyword> to 234
Text **POLY** <keyword> to 234

Logos
LOVENOTES NINALOGO LUKELOGO
JIMMYLOGO PIDOLOGO REBEKAHLOGO
Text **LOGO** <keyword> to 234

Picture Messages

PIDOPIC REBEKAHPIC JIMMYPIC
NINAPIC LUKEPIC JIMMYSOLO
Text **PIC** <keyword> to 234

MMS Images

NINAHEART LUKE PIDO JIMMY REBEKAH GROUPPIC
Text **CPIC** <keyword> to 234

Or subscribe to these services to earn more points!

To get	Send to 234
New Tone Weekly	HOTTONE
New Logo Weekly	HOTLOGO
New Picture Message Weekly	HOTPIC
Cartoon Calendar Logo Daily	CALTOON
Your Love Horoscope Daily	LOVEFORTUNE

Tickets are available at Ticket World for P500, General Admission.

Each text message costs P2.50. Each download costs P15.00. Promo Period: February 4, 2004 - March 31, 2004.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SMART Simply Amazing!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0161, Series of 2004.

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
P55.90= $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 05, 2004

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

The Ultimate Campaign Machine
RISO
Print anytime, anywhere at the lowest cost!
COPYLANDIA OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Call 7476-888

BSP tightens money policy; peso rallies

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday raised the reserve requirement on bank deposits and deposit substitutes by 2 percentage points to 19 percent effective today.

The tightening of monetary policy triggered a rebound in the value of the peso back to high of 55.88 to $1. The monetary action also followed a government announcement of a higher-than-expected 4.1-percent inflation rate in January.

The peso closed at 55.90 to a dollar from 56.16 last Wednesday, emerging as the biggest gainer in the region yesterday. Turnover reached $166.5 million and sellers dominated the Philippine Dealing System.

"We are increasing the reserve requirement as a preemptive action against higher inflation. Our scenario showed that if this trend of a weaker peso continues, the inflation would go beyond the target of 4 to 5 percent for the year," according to BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

A weak peso is inflationary because every time a dollar is changed, more pesos are released into the system.

The reserve increase came before the scheduled monetary policy discussion on Feb. 12. The Monetary Board usually takes monetary policy action only once every four weeks but the decline of the local currency to a record closing low of 56.20 to $1 on Tuesday prompted the quick reaction.

The central bank said the 2-percentage point increase in the liquidity reserves would mop up about P30 billion from the system that may have been used by banks to buy dollars and speculate against the peso.

Starting today, a bank's reserve requirement is comprised of a 10-percent liquidity reserve (from 8 percent) and a 9-percent statutory reserve.

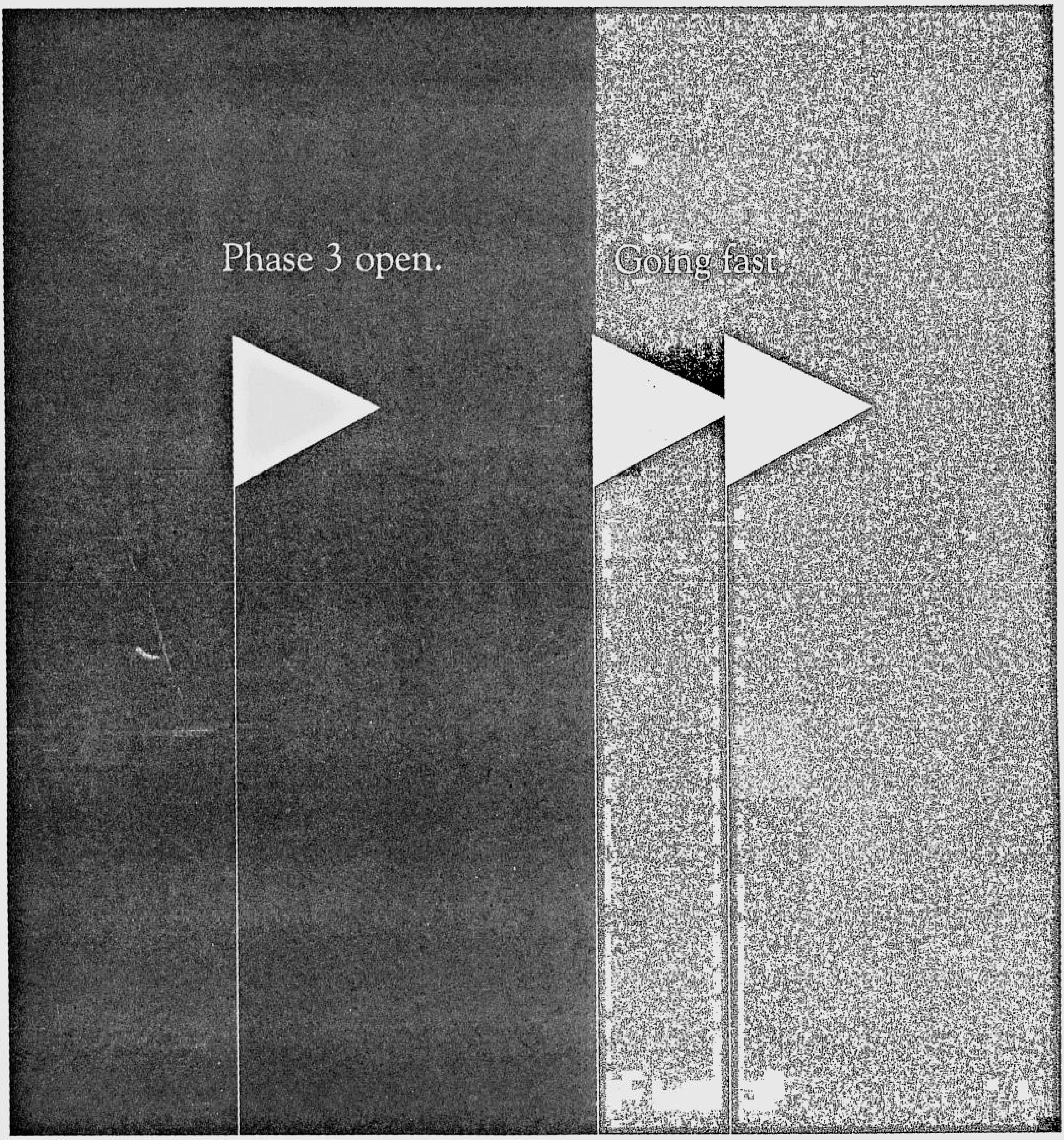
For every peso of deposit, a bank must now set 10 centavos as liquidity reserves, which should be placed only in government securities. In effect, the funds classified as liquidity reserves earn a market rate but money under statutory reserves earn only 4 percent.

"The increase in liquidity reserve will not significantly affect the intermediation cost and lending rates of banks. The Monetary Board emphasized that this should not impact on growth at all," Tetangco said.

The central bank official said the BSP was prepared to take additional action if the downtrend in the exchange rate continued.

"The Board decided to take action because recent political noise had economic implications," Tetangco added.

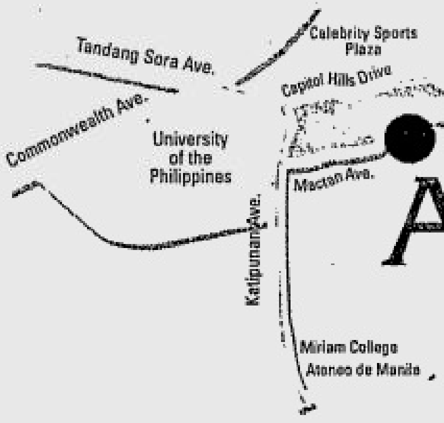
BSP/ B3


Phase 3 open.
Going fast.

HLURB License to Sell Number 06213, 08136, 08143 and 09043

Phase 3A lots at the Ayala Hillside Estates are now available.

And judging by how fast Phase 1 and 2 were sold out, it would be to your best interest to act quickly. Call now and enjoy 23 hectares of rolling terrain meandering an 18-hole all-weather precision golf course. And it's just a drive away from the best schools like Ateneo and U. P and all of Quezon City's conveniences. So even if swinging a 7 iron isn't quite your cup of tea, we're quite sure the wonderful green view from your window would be perfect for morning coffee.



AYALA
Hillside Estates
AYALA LAND XV

Interested? Contact us: 848-5000 • ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph • www.ayalaland.com.ph.

January inflation rate shoots up to 4.1%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INFLATION rate shot up in January due to spiralling food prices, in turn fueled by the peso depreciation as well as rising demand for pork and beef in lieu of chicken following the bird flu scare.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that based on a revised 2000 base, Philippine inflation hit 4.1 percent last month from 3.9 percent in December due to the 0.9-percentage point rise in the food, beverages and tobacco index.

Even using the old base year of 1994, the January inflation rate surged to 3.4 percent from 3.1 percent in December, exceeding the 3-percent forecast of the National Economic and Development Authority for the period.

Month-on-month inflation likewise picked up to 0.8 percent in January from 0.3 percent in December due to the uptick in selected food items such as rice, fish, meat and cooking oil while prices of selected construction materials and fuel remained high.

By commodity group, food, beverage and tobacco went up by 3.3 percent in January from a year ago, faster than the 2.4-percent annual rise in December.

On the other hand, the index for housing and repairs, services as well as fuel, light and water even slid to 2.9 percent, 5.1 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively, from 3.1 percent, 5.5 percent and 6.2 percent.

The annual inflation for clothing and miscellaneous items remained at the previous month's 2.3 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.

The inflation rate for food alone accelerated to 3.4 percent in January from only 2.4 percent in December as the index for meat skyrocketed to 10.2 percent from only 4.5 percent.

There was likewise a jump in the index for rice, corn, dairy products, eggs, fish and miscellaneous food, which was not offset by the softer index for cereal preparations, fruits and vegetables.

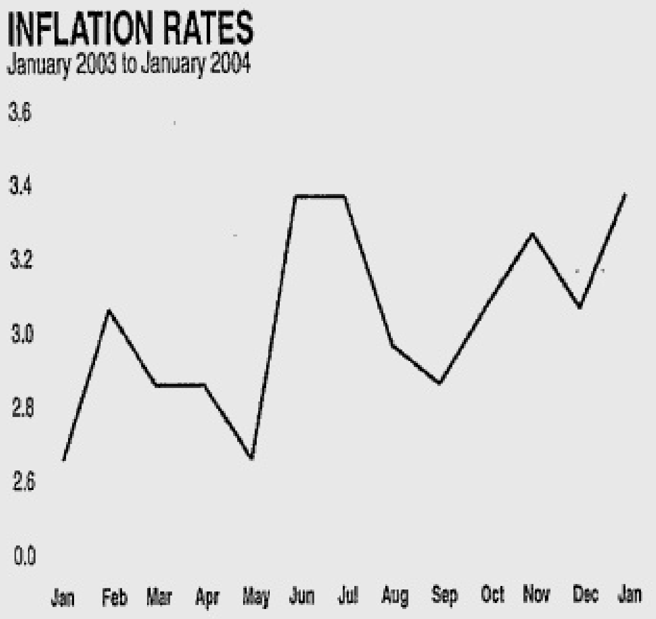
Excluding food and energy items, core inflation for the period still rose to 3.6 percent from 3.4 percent in December.

The uptick in consumer prices was felt more in areas outside of Metro Manila, where inflation rose to 4 percent from 3.7 percent, while within Metro Manila, the rate even slowed down to 3.8 percent in January from 4.2 percent in December.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair Cesar Virata, a former finance minister, yesterday said it was inevitable for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to tighten its grip on interest rate this year.

"Interest rates will go up internationally and locally, also the government plans to borrow more to finance its deficit," Virata said.

In a separate interview, Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank treasurer Roland Avante said the uptick in inflation as well as the speculative attacks on the local currency had given the BSP the reason to raise bank reserves.



TOSHIBA

Highest Performance for every Budget!

P8,000 Introductory Discount

Satellite A20-S330
(Part No: PSA20L-05WH6)
- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.66GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- 256MB RAM (upgradeable to 2048MB)
- 40GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD
- 14.1" XGA TFT Display
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive
- USB2.0 x 3, S-Video, TV Out
- Dual Band 802.11a/b network support ready

~~P84,990~~
P76,990

Special Introductory Launch.
VERY Limited Time Only.

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

A10-S102
(Part No: PSA10L-OHJFH)
- Intel® Celeron® Processor 2.2GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 256MB RAM
- 30GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD
- 14.1" XGA TFT Display
- CD-ROM Drive

P54,990

A10-S330
(Part No: PSA10L-024F4)
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 1.8GHz-M
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 256MB RAM
- 30GB S.M.A.R.T HDD
- 14.1" XGA TFT Display
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive

P71,990

Also available A10-S310
(Part No: PSA10L-024F3)

A10-S432
(Part No: PSA10L-01T54)
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.2GHz-M
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 256MB RAM
- 30GB S.M.A.R.T HDD
- 15" XGA TFT Display
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive

P88,990

Also available A10-S430
(Part No: PSA10-033X4)

Toshiba Global Support Centre InTouch with You
For general enquiries and product support, please call 24x7 toll-free 1800 165 10441.

Authorized Distributor and Service Center:
Tricom Dynamics, Inc. www.tricom.com.ph. **MAKATI:** MAKATI Metro House Bldg., 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Tel: 890-8525 to 32 * Fax: 890-0698 • **CEBU:** 253-6517; 232-6391* Fax: 231-0681 • **DAVAO:** 227-4137 to 38 * Fax: 227-4147 • **CAGAYAN DE ORO:** 22-733-158; 855-5388 * Fax: 22-733-273

Authorized Dealers:
COMPLINK MARKETING, INC. . HEAD OFFICE: 6871234 • MEGAMALL: 6373988 • GALLERIA: 6329896 • PARK SQ1: 8931489 • SM NORTH EDSA: 9209140 • SHANGRI-LA: 6374444 • SM SOUTHMALL: 8019908 • SM BACOOR: (046) 4177761 • CITIMALL: 5129708 • E-HUB ATC: 7752140 • **SILICON VALLEY** ATC: 8078987 • PARK SQ1: 8126734 • SM MANILA: 5253218 • MEGAMALL: 6331724 • SM BICUTAN: 8229751 • STA. LUCIA: 6466536 • SM SOUTHMALL: 8069595 • SM NORTH EDSA: 9275831 • HARRISON PLAZA: 5257731 • SM BACOOR: (46)4177881 • SM PAMPANGA: (45)9612225 • **ELECTROWORLD** HEAD OFFICE: 7472054 • SM MANILA: 5248310 • GREENBELT: 8125815 • ABENSON-CAINTA: 6815301 • SM NORTH EDSA: 9279525 • SM FAIRVIEW: 4186064 • FARMERS PLAZA: 9111494 • MEGAMALL: 6331624 • SM BICUTAN: 8229014 • ABENSON SHANGRI-LA: 6388019 • PARK SQ1: 8132776 • WALTERMART MAKATI: 8929119 ABENSON-QUAD: 8940951 • SM SOUTHMALL: 8000408 • ALABANG: 8509682 • ATC: 7723256 • WALTERMART STA. ROSA LAGUNA: (049)5491241 • **COLUMBIA COMPUTER SUPERSTORE** HEAD OFFICE: 5267152 • MEGAMALL: 6339318 • PARK SQ1: 8671704 • ROBINSON'S PLACE: 5242510 SM NORTH EDSA: 9269141 • VIRRAMALL: 7212143 • STA.LUCIA: 6817374 • PACO: 3390761 • SM CAVITE: (046)4171836 • ALIMALL: 4219962 • CHALLENGER COMPUTER FESTIVAL MALL: 8095475 • DISCOVERY COMPUTER SM SOUTHMALL: 8015130 • **ABC COMPUTERS** SM NORTH EDSA: 9250410 • MEGAMALL: 6332346 • PARK SQ1: 7527559 • VIRRA MALL: 7214960 • **THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY** MEGAMALL: 6342437 • SHANGRILA: 6374163 • PARK SQ1: 8106766 SM SOUTHMALL: 8000512 • VIRRA MALL: 7210957 • SM FAIRVIEW: 4193512 • FESTIVAL MALL: 8503710 • SM BACOOR (046)4179022 • STA.LUCIA: 6817335 TUTUBAN: 2531444 • FUTURE LINK SM NORTH EDSA: 9252628 • **ARX COMPUTER CENTER** GALLERIA: 6320991 • SHANGRI-LA: 6350068 • SM SUCAT: 8208694 • PLATINUM SOLUTIONS SM NORTH EDSA: 4262216

©2004 Toshiba Singapore, Computer Systems Division (Regional Headquarters For S.E. Asia & Indian Subcontinent).
Intel, Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo, Pentium and Celeron are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Price, design and specifications, if any, are subject to change without notice. Toshiba will not be liable for editorial, pictorial or typographical errors in this advertisement. Featured models come with 1-year International Limited Warranty unless otherwise stated

intel inside pentium 4 m

Now Available
Online warranty registration
pc.toshiba-asia.com/registeronline
pc.toshiba-asia.com

Choose freedom.

Oil service deals not affected by SC ruling

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said the Supreme Court's ruling on the Mining Act had no effect on petroleum service contracts that the agency had awarded to oil and gas companies.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said that after review and evaluation of existing contracts and the "model contract" for future projects including potential Philippine Contracting Rounds-1 (PCR-1) awards, the contracts remained valid.

The DOE has awarded petroleum service contracts to local and foreign oil and gas exploration firms under the Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972 or the amended PD 87.

Last week, the Supreme Court issued an order declaring unconstitutional and void certain provisions and implementing rules of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942), which raised questions regarding its effect on the contract system that the DOE administers.

The provisions and rules concerned allow the execution of service contracts with foreign-owned corporations for the exploration, development, exploitation and use of the country's mineral resources.

In the 95-page decision, the high court said the 1987 Constitution did not allow foreign companies to operate every mining activity, which would grant such firms beneficial ownership of the country's natural resources.

For the DOE's part, Perez said the petroleum service contracts substantially addressed the Supreme Court's concerns considering that these contracts contained provisions that protect and safeguard the interest and welfare of the country.

"At the same time, the contracts offer a fair balance of risks and rewards to the Filipino and/or foreign investor," he added.

In August last year, the DOE launched PCR-1, which put 46 of the country's most promising exploration blocks up for bidding.

Investors were given until next month to submit their bids. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Neda Board OKs duty-free corn import plan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BOARD of the National Economic and Development Authority has approved the proposed one-time duty-free importation of corn to help stabilize the prices of feeds and livestock.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, the Neda Board is now preparing a draft executive order, which is expected to be signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo anytime soon.

The Neda Board is composed of the heads of various government agencies, including the departments of trade and industry, finance, agriculture, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The one-time duty-free importation will cover 350,000 metric tons of corn, said DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. He added that the amount of importation would be enough to address the expected supply shortage for a year.

Imported corn outside the minimum access volume (MAV) allocation given to accredited importers are currently slapped a 65-percent duty.

The proposed volume of importation was higher than the 150,000 metric tons earlier suggested by feed millers and hog raisers. They said the duty-free importation of corn was one way to counter the increase in prices of meat products and feeds brought by the tightness in corn supply.

Reports said the price of corn had risen to a high of P12 a kilo from P8. The tightness in corn supply was largely attributed to typhoon Harurot, which hit the country last year.

The planned importation of 350,000 metric tons of corn will be on top of the existing MAV allocation of 212,119 metric tons a year and is slapped a 35-percent duty.

Purisima said the duty-free importation of corn is expected to significantly reduce prices of meat products. He cited chicken, saying feeds account for 50 to 60 percent of its price.

Maynilad maelstrom

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FINANCIAL and regulatory whirlpool that threatens to swallow the Lopez-controlled Maynilad Water has already sucked in its first major casualty.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III is due to be replaced anytime soon by former Public Works and Highways Secretary Fiorello Estuar, who currently heads another Lopez company, First Philippine Balfour Beatty.

Alunan and Estuar had been colleagues in the Aquino Cabinet, Alunan being the tourism secretary before he joined the Ramos government as interior and local government secretary.

By virtue of his being DPWH secretary, Estuar had also assumed in concurrent capacity the chairmanship of the pre-privatization Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. MWSS has since become the regulatory agency after it spun off its water distribution functions to Maynilad and another concessionaire, the Ayala-controlled Manila Water.

According to the grapevine, Estuar, a key member the GMA executive search committee formed right after Edsa II, has been nominated by the administration in preparation for the government's impending takeover of the Maynilad concession.

It is not immediately clear where Alunan would resurrect after Maynilad, although one account said he would join the Maynilad parent, the publicly listed Benpres Holdings, as a consultant.

Maynilad and French partner Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux made good their threat to return the 25-year concession to service half of Metro Manila after their joint venture lost an international arbitration case last year and was ordered to pay the government $122 million in concession fees.

Horse sense

THE MAKATI GMA ladies' group led by former Vice Mayor Conchitina Sevilla-Bernardo, New York-based billionaire Loida Nicolas-Lewis, and GMA balae Charito Montenegro has managed to swing a sponsorship deal with the Manila Jockey Club, where a slice of the proceeds of one race a month in the new Carmona track would accrue to a select GMA foundation.

In the Pinoy-rich San Francisco Bay Area, director Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara is trying to outshoot her pro-Ping Lacson brother, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, by actively campaigning for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo along with lawyer-community leader Rodel Rodis.

Kashiwahara, incidentally, barnstormed the country (the Philippines, not her adopted United States) for Alfredo Lim during the 1998 presidential elections.

Short takes

- KLM is throwing in a free round-trip ticket to Kuala Lumpur for every round-trip ticket to Europe purchased up to March 31 through their website. Offer is good only for Philippine residents. The award ticket, unfortunately non-transferable, non-reroutable and not convertible to cash, is valid until June 30.
- GOOGLE now has a website in Filipino that automatically pops out for Philippine-based online searchers. The Filipino-language website of course has a direct link to its popular English web page search engine.

Heard through the grapevine

ALCOA, in reaction to a Wednesday item here, said it intends to stay in the Philippines and renew its expiring lease for its plastic bottle cap factory in Carmelray Park in Calamba, Laguna.

The Philippine general manager, Tammy Ng, is currently on an extended tour of China, which lent credence to the speculation that the local Alcoa subsidiary had been set to join another Carmelray company that had reportedly taken advantage of a Chinese government offer of rent-free factory space just to relocate to the mainland.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Transco profit jumps to ₱15.7B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN National Transmission Corp. posted a net income of P15.7 billion in 2003, up 14.6 percent from P13.7 billion in 2002, according to an energy official.

The increase was almost triple the expected 5-percent improvement projected for the company.

Transco projections last year showed a bigger net income due to rising demand for electricity.

The company owns and operates the transmission wires nationwide, the use for which electricity buyers pay 55 centavos for every kilowatt-hour that passes through them.

Transco was spun off from the cash-strapped National Power Corp. when the Electric Power Industry Reform Act was enacted in June 2001.

When the firm operated independently early last year, Transco started with a clean slate as debts related to it were left in Napocor's books.

"All of Transco's income goes to the national coffers," the official said.

"Transco operated on a P30-billion budget last year and it turned in about P16 billion in return," the source added.

Company data show that electricity demand for the country in 2001 was pegged at a total of 7,465 megawatts—5,618 MW in Luzon, 893 MW in the Visayas and 954 in Mindanao.

This jumped 10.5 percent in 2002 to 8,249 MW—6,308 MW in Luzon, 941 MW in the Visayas and 1,000 MW in Mindanao.

For 2003, Transco projects demand would further improve by 7.1 percent to 8,833 MW or 6,752 MW in Luzon, 1,007 MW in the Visayas and 1,074 in Mindanao. Actual data for 2003 have yet to be released.

Meantime, Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said investors interested in bidding for the privatization of the country's national power grid were looking at a possible joint venture.

Ortiz said in a briefing with the INQUIRER Business staff: "Instead of fighting it out, the investors are thinking of going for it together."

He said the erstwhile lone interested firm Singapore Power Ltd. was one of the parties in the discussion but he did not name the others.

The privatization would be done in two phases, with the first covering a concession maintain-rehabilitate-expand-and-finance for the nationwide high voltage transmission grid.

The second phase will begin once the franchise to operate is granted to the concessionaire.

A proposed law making Transco's franchise transferrable to a private company is still pending in the Senate.

BSP tightens money policy . . .

From page B1

The last time the central bank raised the reserve requirement was in March 2003 when it brought up the liquidity reserve by a percentage point also to avert a continued fall of the peso.

Since then, banks' reserve re quirement had been at 17 percent.

The Monetary Board believed the risk of higher future inflation arising from exchange rate movements required a policy response in order to limit the potential impact on consumer prices, Tetangco said.

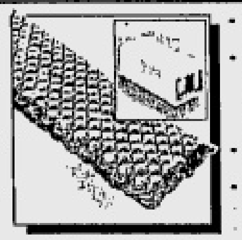
"The BSP will closely monitor developments in the foreign exchange market. The Monetary Board is prepared to take further policy action, if necessary, to ensure orderly market conditions which are important in pursuing the BSP's primary objective of price stability," he added.

Starting 2002, the BSP must only use its monetary tools to keep prices stable and not necessarily to buoy the local currency except when the peso weakness is already putting pressure on the government's inflation target of 4 to 5 percent this year.

PRULINK **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week February 03, 2004	Last Week January 27, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.12191	1.12520
Managed Fund - Peso	1.16332	1.18689
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.9918	1.0070

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission



BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?

- Totally eliminates bedsores
- No need to turn patient as pad alternately inflates & deflates every 5 minutes
- Relieves pressure on patients back
- Made in Europe

FLY PAD

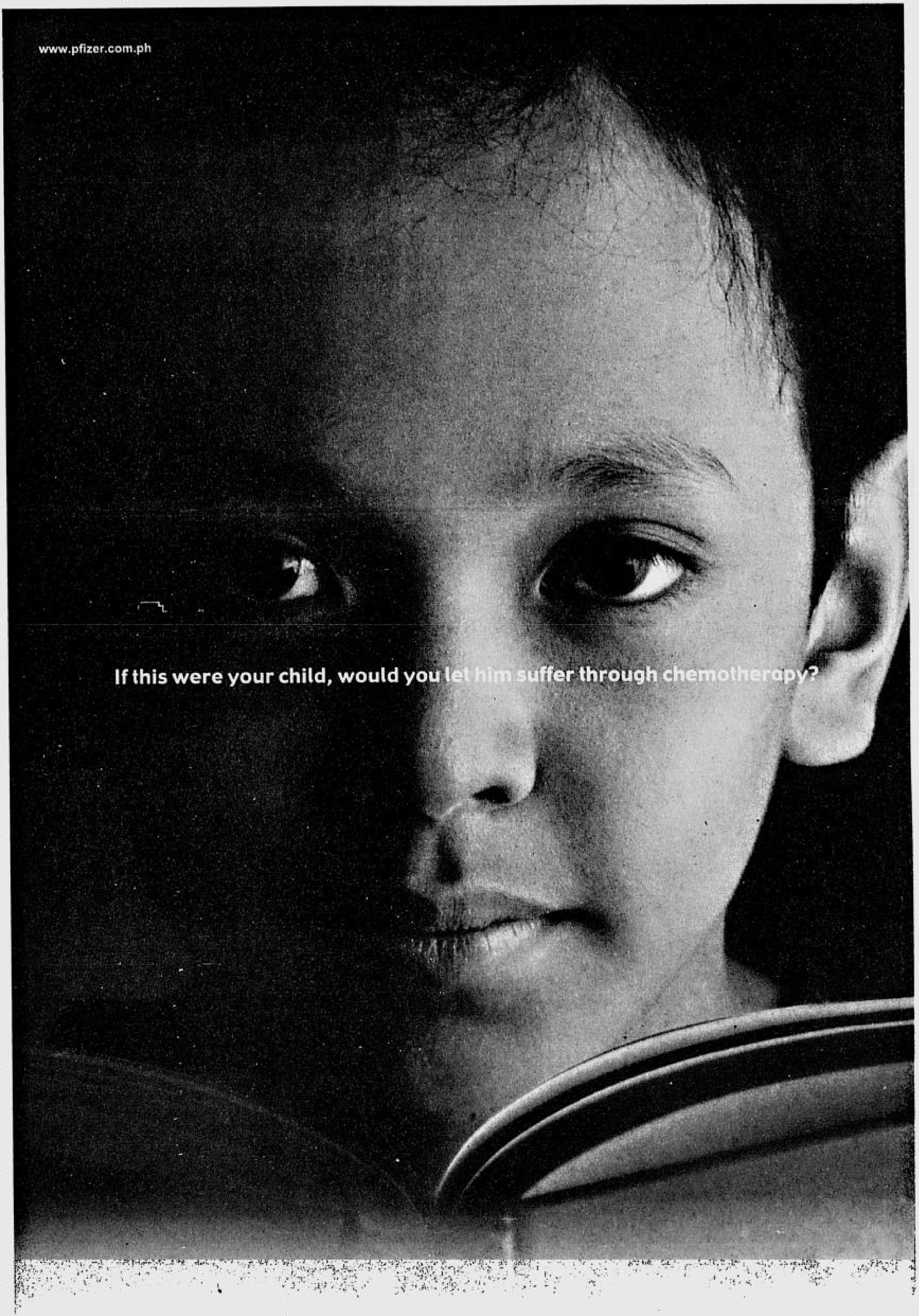
ALSO AVAILABLE:
MEDICAL BED • SORE PATCHES

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA
2nd Floor 45-636-3513

SM MANILA
5TH FLR. 484-1471

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453 3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-15-65
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635 5061
CEBU 262 32-39


www.pfizer.com.ph
If this were your child, would you let him suffer through chemotherapy?

Nothing is more heartbreaking than a child in pain, and a seven-year old boy named Joel bears the worst kind, cancer.

For people like him, we provide medications which kill the cancerous cells that attack their bodies. And we still have many anti-cancer compounds in development. Each one shows tremendous potential, promising a more gentle yet effective alternative to chemotherapy. So while our researchers and doctors work on the cure, the rest of us are working on Joel's spirit.

By supporting Kythe, an advocacy group that helps pediatric cancer patients cope with the challenges of chemotherapy, Pfizer helped establish the Kythe Child Life Program in the Santo Tomas University Hospital, the Tarlac Provincial Hospital and Davao Medical Center. In these places, specially-trained doctors and nurses help pediatric cancer patients like Joel to endure chemotherapy. Between treatments, our employees visit Joel, play with him and even take him to carnivals–anything to help him feel normal and happy.

So long as Joel needs our research, our medicines and our hugs, we do what we can. On our fiftieth year in the Philippines, we work even harder until Joel's life becomes healthier, longer and happier.

Pfizer

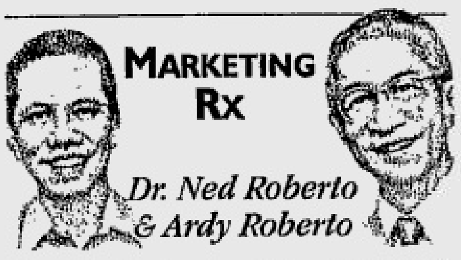
'Life is our life's work'

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Trade marketers dilemma: uniform or customized discounts to customers?



HERE'S a question from a concerned marketer trying to manage his different trade accounts:

"It's common practice to give discounts to trade accounts. Is it wise to give different discounts or just give uniform discounts no matter how much or how often one trade customer orders compared to another?"

Not all customers are created equal

Your guiding principle is "adaptation." Adapt your offer and terms to different buying trade customers. If you're dealing, for example, with different retail chains like SM Supermarket, Robinson's, Rustan's, and the like, negotiate different terms depending on each one's requirements.

Just suppose that Robinson's wants three times a week delivery because of its low stocking policy. On the other hand, let's say SM Supermarket is agreeable to a once-a-week delivery so that it can enjoy a lower pricing. These differing requirements mean that your cost will differ in satisfying Robinson's and SM Supermarket. If your costs differ, then your profitability will also differ.

Specifically, you have more costs and therefore less profitability serving Robinson's requirements. In the case of SM Supermarket, you have less costs in meeting its once-a-week delivery and therefore more profitability. This is of course assumes that your pricing is the same for these two accounts. It's also clear that your discount offer will differ between the two. You can give a higher discount to SM and lower to Robinson's. In other words, standardizing discounts is not the answer to your dilemma.

ABCs of getting costings right

What's critical in all this is that you have good and accurate costing. Get help from your Finance and Accounting managers to estimate the true and correct profitability of marketing to your two differing retail or trade customers. In arriving at this correct profitability, you need to use not the standard cost accounting but what's now called "activity-based cost (ABC) accounting."

In ABC accounting, you go after the real and correct costs of serving each customer's requirements. You have to be able to trace and assign the variable as well as the overhead costs in satisfying each retail customer. If you estimate costs incorrectly, then your profit estimates will also be incorrect. So your pricing and discount offers will not reflect the true customer value to you of SM and Robinson's.

Trade marketing benefits

You stand to gain at least two important advantages from a correct costing of serving your differing retail accounts.

First, you have a correct guide in allocating your trade marketing efforts and support to your trade customers. The retail customer who gives you more profitable business deserves more of your trade marketing resources and support.

Secondly, when you're able to identify the true costs of serving a retail customer, you are better able to explain your charges to that customer—including the correct discount due him. A retail trade account that allows you to make money deserves a similar, reciprocal treatment from you. Same principle goes with an account where there's hardly enough profit. Obviously, because of your margins on this low-profit account, there won't be enough for you to return to this customer.

There's of course more to ABC accounting than our space allows. For those who would like to get deeper into the subject, read Activity-Based Cost Management by Gary Cokins published by John Wiley, 2001, or read, for a more detailed introduction, Robin Cooper and Robert Kaplan's article in the May-June 1991 issue of Harvard Business Review, "Profit Priorities from Activity-Based Costing (ABC)." On the home front, there's also an article on ABC written by Prof. Teodoro Dizon of the Asian Institute of Management for The Asian Manager (call the AIM library or AIM's Knowledge Resource Center for a copy. Tel 892-4011.)

We received a lot of mail commenting on the past three columns on Person Marketing (FPJ and Noli) and True Competitor. We just want to clarify that we are not endorsing the candidates that we wrote about. MRx simply prescribed better ways to market candidates to the *masa*. Anyway, we try our best to answer or acknowledge every e-mail that you send to us even if it takes us a week or two. So keep them coming! *(Email us at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com)*

WITH FANCY FOOTWEAR

Firm scores slam dunk

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

JUSTIN Cupps, Robert Bachmann and Tet Bachmann.

THE BRAND landed on Philippine shores in March 2000 bearing the image of a fashion wear more than a basketball footwear.

The Lifestyle pages of newspapers announced its arrival with photo spreads.

But the distributors of AND1 insisted they are a serious garb for those serious with basketball.

It took the Bachmann family of the Relzbach Ventures Inc. over three years to meet with AND1 folks in the United States to discuss business.

AND1 apparel and footwear unofficially entered the local market via Americans or "imports" playing for the PBA, who brought the apparel from the US to Manila as "*pasalubong*."

Robert E. Bachmann, president and general manager of Relzbach Ventures Inc., the official distributor of AND1 goods in the Philippines, says Shawn Chambers, a former Alaska import, would bring AND1 shirts.

In 1996, while in the US, he was told by brother Richard "Dickie," an assistant coach for Alaska, to check out a trade show in Atlanta and to look for the brand AND1.

What Robert saw was a 10x10 booth with two burly black guys manning it. Needless to say, he says, he was daunted by the "guards" and shied away.

In 1998, he checked out the same trade show and this time, the AND1 booth was ten times bigger and you could only talk to the people if you have an appointment.

For the second time, he went back to Manila unsuccessful with his business quest.

In 1999, he checked out the show again and this time, he met the international manager and Robert introduced himself. He was told that AND1 was really looking at the Philippines because one of the founders had a chance to visit the country and was amazed at the popularity of the sport and the number of basketball courts in Manila.

Justin Cupps, general manager for Asia Pacific of AND1, says the Philippines has the highest basketball representation in athletics at 50 percent compared with only 8 to 10 percent in the United States.

In other words, half of the Filipino athletes play basketball.

The Philippines is now the third largest market for the region for AND1. China is the biggest with annual sales of about $7 million to $8 million; next is Taiwan with about $6 million to $7 million and the Philippines sells some $4 million to $5 million a year.

Cupps says they are still a very small player worldwide with $225 million in annual sales compared with Nike's $9 billion.

However, the strategy of AND1 is that they cannot be found everywhere.

"We have a selective distribution strategy," says Cupps.

The Philippines adopted this strategy. AND1 footwear and apparel are distributed in only 142 outlets in the Philippines including six free-standing stores.

Robert points out that they are selective about their outlets. "They have to tell the whole story," he says, explaining that each outlet should carry the full range of the footwear and not just certain styles.

He lists the reasons for their success in the Philippines: proper merchandising, selecting distribution channels properly and having good products.

Robert says from 8,000 pairs of shoes sold during their first year, they are now selling 100,000 pairs a year.

AND1 started in Philadelphia as a T-shirt maker. It was set up by six college buddies who loved basketball. They noticed that the sports brands in the market then were catering to all types of sports. The name comes from a play in basketball where a player on the verge of shooting is fouled and still puts the ball in the hoop—the point is called AND1.

"No one was focused on basketball," Cupps relates.

He adds that at that time, there was a push for shoes that cost over $100. "There was a huge push for shoes to be expensive. No one was dominant on the $65 to $80 a pair. There were even shoes, about 10 to 20 percent of the market that cost over $100 a pair."

He points that no one was looking at good leather for basketball shoes. And there was no NBA player who was endorsing a footwear that cost $75.

Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors was the first to do so.

"AND1 is popular with the kids because it's a cool product and parents find the price reasonable," explains Cupps. "It's a great basketball product with a fashion appeal."

Tet Bachman, marketing manager of Relzbach, says Filipinos are attuned to the trends abroad. They look for shoes that are just about to arrive. They are much more aware and even if they can't afford it, they save up for it.

The average AND1 shoes costs about P3,500 although the most expensive go for P6,000.

This year the firm is launching a new line—the training category. They hope to bring a group similar to the Harlem Globetrotters of the '80s to do basketball demos and to introduce the new line.

AND1 will also continue holding basketball clinics in several parts of the country this year.

Electronics firm in Superbrands list

PHILIPS, one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, was recently hailed as a super brand after being included in the Superbrands list for the year 2003-2004 in the Philippine market.

Launched in England in 1991, Superbrands is the world's leading arbiter of brand performance, which operates in 30 markets worldwide.

"We feel extremely honored and proud for this distinction, which is yet another validation of Philips' goal of making things better for every consumer," says Philips Consumer Electronics general manager Angelo Valenton.

"We are indebted to our consumers and trade partners who continue to patronize and support our products. This is one of many motivations that inspire us to come up with innovative products and services that improve people's lives," adds Valenton.

Philips was selected over other brands after it passed a two-stage evaluation process that included research into 1,000 consumer preferences in markets and a qualitative evaluation of consumers' preferred brands.

Superbrands also considered several qualitative criteria like market dominance, longevity, goodwill, customer loyalty and overall market acceptance as indicators of being a Superbrand.

Among the innovative products that make Philips such a popular brand are the Philips Pixel Plus Plasma TV and the LX8000SA Home Theater System, both of which provide cinema-style viewing for a unique "Best Seat in the House" experience.

The Pixel Plus Plasma TV combines elegance and substance. It is equipped with the award-winning Pixel Plus technology, which delivers increased resolution at a record-breaking two million pixels per picture frame.

Paired with the MX5800SA Home Theater world System that gives total immersion in movies and music, Philips truly gives you plenty of great excuses to stay home.

These are merely some of the remarkable products that were borne out of Philips' rich legacy of innovations and inventions—a legacy that enables Philips to always be at the forefront of several remarkable milestones.

For instance, Philips invented the compact audiocassette tape and set a global standard for tape recording that has never been altered since. Other key breakthroughs came in the processing, storage and transmission of images, sound and data, which resulted in the invention of the Laser Vision optical disc, the Compact Disc and the Digital Versatile Disc.

Philips is also active in the development of the Blu-ray Disc, the next generation optical disc format that delivers the highest data rate of any consumer media and the highest recording density.

Built on a bedrock of invention and innovation, Philips today holds close to 100,000 of the world's patents in inventions and this figure is growing, thanks to research, which has always been Philips' core strength.

Being included in the Superbrands list surely corroborates Philips' goal of making things better for consumers.

Know the business of your software provider

By Feliza A. Peralta and Fabian K. delos Santos
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

DO you know the business of your software provider? If you don't, you better find out. This is because under a recently issued BIR circular, the withholding tax rate applicable to certain income payments to local software providers depends on the nature of their business.

Revenue Memorandum Circular No. (RMC) 77-2003 dated Nov. 18, 2003 seeks to clarify the proper income tax and withholding tax treatment of income payments for computer software, maintenance and related services.

According to the RMC, the definition of royalties under the Tax Code includes payments for the use of software. These will be subject to the appropriate withholding tax on royalty payments. The question, however, is what is the proper income tax and withholding tax treatment of royalty income from the grant of a license to use software. The answer depends on the mode of acquiring the software.

Software license

If the software license is acquired from local subsidiaries, resellers or distributors authorized by the foreign /licensor/owner of the software to distribute its products in the Philippines, the royalty payments will be treated as business income subject to 32 percent tax if they are derived from the ordinary conduct or in the active pursuit of business. In this case, the end-user shall withhold 2 percent income tax of the gross amount of the payments, which will be creditable against the tax due on the taxable income of the local subsidiaries, resellers, or distributors.

If the royalty payments made by the end-user to the local subsidiaries, resellers, or distributors will not result in income, such payments are treated as passive income which are subject to the 20 percent final income tax imposed on royalties derived by a domestic corporation and the amount will be withheld and collected by the end-user making such payment.

The question now is "How do you know if the royalty income was derived by the seller/distributor in the ordinary conduct or active pursuit of its business? Unfortunately, the RMC is silent on this matter. In one case, however, the Court of Appeals ruled that passive income subject to 20 percent FWT, under the Tax Code refers to those which are earned not in the regular course of trade or business of the taxpayer or those which can be realized with very little effort or no effort at all on the part of the recipient. (Banico & Sons Inc. vs. Court of Tax Appeals, CA-GR. No 32876, Oct. 20, 1994). But the definition begs the question "is there a specific test that can be applied to know if the royalty income was earned from the regular course or active conduct of business? The BIR should clarify further this matter.

One test, may be to look at the primary purpose as stated in the Articles of Incorporation of the software provider. Thus, in BIR Ruling DA-187-2002, the BIR reiterated its position in BIR Ruling No. DA-249-2001 that the royalties and other fees received by the income recipient are in the nature of active income arising from the active pursuit of its business because the activities are in accordance with its primary purpose as stated in its Articles of Incorporation.

With respect to royalty payments made to a non-resident foreign licensor/owner of the software by the local subsidiaries, reseller or distributor, the rule is quite different. Based on the RMC, royalty payments made by the local subsidiaries, resellers, or distributors to the non-resident foreign licensor/owner of software are subject to the 32-percent income tax imposed on royalties derived by a non-resident foreign corporation. The 32-percent tax will be withheld and collected by the subsidiaries, resellers or distributors making the payments unless the foreign licensor/owner is a resident of a country which has an existing tax treaty with the Philippines in which case the tax rates on royalties provided in the treaty shall be used. This rule appears to apply whether the royalty payments constitute active or passive income of the non-resident licensor/owner.

In case the local end-user acquired the software license directly from the foreign licensor/owner of the software, his payments to the said licensor/owner as royalties are also subject to 32 percent income tax. The 32-percent tax will be withheld and collected by the end-user making the payments unless the foreign licensor/owner is a resident of a country which has an existing tax treaty with the Philippines in which case the tax rates on royalties provided in the tax treaty will apply.

After-sales service

In most cases, the contracts for the use of software are accompanied with the provision of services (e.g., installation, maintenance, and customization of the software) by the personnel of the foreign licensor/owner or of the local subsidiary, reseller, or distributor. In these cases, the payments under such kind of mixed contracts are not to be treated as royalties alone, but will include income from the services. The appropriate course to take according to the RMC is, in principle, to break down, on the basis of the information contained in the contract or by means of a reasonable apportionment, the whole amount of the stipulated payments according to the various parts of what is being provided under the contract, and then apply to each part of it (i.e., royalty and service fee) the proper tax treatment for such payments.

Hardware with software

Payments for the software, or that portion of the payments apportioned for the software bundled with computer hardware, where the bundling is done in the Philippines, shall be taxed following the rules discussed earlier. However, payments for software where the software are bundled with computer hardware outside the Philippines shall be covered by a separate revenue issuance.

Considering the wide-ranging implications of the new RMC, it would really do well to know the business of your software provider.

Benguet gov't planning to bid out Binga dam

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The provincial government is auctioning off the Binga hydroelectric power dam to pay the debts of National Power Corp. to Benguet.

The Binga dam is one of the public assets that the government plans to sell this year to pay for the government's P800-billion debt.

Napocor had just recovered the 50-year-old facility from an independent power producer (IPP) contract with Chinese and Filipino power firms in 1990.

Gov. Raul Molintas said he gave Napocor and the Aboitiz-owned Luzon Hydroelectric Corp. 30 days from Dec. 23, 2003, to settle P18,613,538.58 in franchise tax owed to the provincial government. These firms have been operating two of the country's IPP facilities in Benguet.

Napocor owes Benguet P12.4 million in franchise taxes for 2001 to 2003 arising from the operation of Binga dam. The Aboitiz firm owes the province P6.17 million also in franchise tax for 2002 and 2003.

But instead of suing these firms in court, Molintas said the local government code granted him the authority to instead confiscate and put in the auction bloc Napocor's assets in the province.

"Why go to court, when (the process) would take longer. There are enough administrative remedies that allow me to levy the debt against Napocor's assets," he told reporters during a press conference.

Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. sought Molintas' permission to build new power lines that would link the San Roque multipurpose dam project in San Manuel, Pangasinan, to the Luzon power grid, using a new distribution line connecting Itogon, Benguet.

Molintas said he had issued a "cease and desist" on the Aboitiz-operated Bakun AC I and II last year because of the franchise tax debts. He, however, withdrew the order later when Luzon Hydroelectric Corp. argued that its power purchase agreement with Napocor had made the state firm liable for its debts. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Meeting the future president

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ON Jan. 17, 2004, the Alyansa Agrikultura made a decision to meet the future president before he or she takes office. Unlike other groups who just want to hear what the presidential candidates are offering, the Alyansa will present to the candidates a common agri-fishery action agenda. This agenda took one year of nationwide consultations to formulate. The degree of support or rejection of this agenda by the presidential candidates would help determine whom the farmers and fisherfolk will vote for.

So far, all the presidential candidates have agreed to discuss this agenda with the Alyansa Agrikultura. The first dialogue with presidential candidate Raul Roco took place last Feb. 4. The meeting with Sen. Panfilo Lacson will be on Feb. 9. The dialogues with presidential candidates President Macapagal Arroyo, Fernando Poe Jr, and even Bro. Eddie Villanueva are currently being arranged.

The Alyansa

The Alyansa Agrikultura is a nationwide coalition of federations representing more than one million farmers and fisherfolk. Its leaders come from national peasant and fisherfolk organizations such as Pakisama and the Federation of Free Farmers. The Alyansa also has leaders from organizations grouped by the commodities they are producing, such as the National Federation of Hog Raisers Inc. (NFHRI), United Broiler Raisers' Association (UBRA) and the Kilusang Mangingisda. They believe in empowerment and self-reliance for improving their own welfare. An example is the United Broiler Raisers Association working with the Philippine Maize Federation for corn purchase contracts to stabilize supply and prices of poultry and corn.

However, the Alyansa also believes it is its responsibility to propose government policies and programs its members need, lest these just become tools for political expedience. Thus, they have formulated a common agri-fishery action agenda.

The agenda

This agenda is divided into two parts. The first part is the overall agenda. It includes support for agriculture, the international trade regime, agrarian reform, the rights of women and indigenous peoples and governance. Under support for agriculture, the subtopics are agricultural sub-sector master plans, the agricultural budget, irrigation, production, human resource development, marketing and credit.

The second part is the commodities agenda. This deals with the two to three most important issues in each major commodity sector, such as rice, corn, coconut, sugar, fruits and vegetables, fisheries, livestock and poultry. The Philippine Peasant Institute, under executive director Omi Royondoyan, was instrumental in summarizing this agenda into a three-page document that was immediately sent to the presidential candidates.

An example

In the first meeting with presidential candidate Raul Roco two days ago, a key recommendation for the fisheries sector supported by the entire Alyansa Agrikultura was discussed. Arsenio Tanchuling, a convenor of the Kilusang Mangingisda, asked for the implementation of a comprehensive fishery management system that includes the restoration of DAO 17.

DAO 17 delineates and delimits municipal waters within 15 kilometers of the shoreline. In these waters, priority is given to small fisherfolk over commercial fishers.

Last March 17, 2003, DAO 17 was suspended. This affected three million fishers, not counting their families, who depend on these municipal waters for their livelihood.

Tanchuling said that in a Cabinet cluster meeting held on Dec. 10, 2003, a commitment was made to restore DAO 17 in its entirety. This meeting was attended by, among others, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman and Mayor Raymundo Roquero, deputy secretary general of the League of Municipalities.

However, Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 1 (AO 1) issued on Jan. 14, 2004 covered only part of the original DAO 17 coverage. Adding insult to injury, it covered the municipal waters of the 614 municipalities without offshore islands that had already been previously delineated. It ignored the remaining 301 municipalities with offshore islands promised during the Dec. 10 Cabinet cluster meeting. Tanchuling asked, "What good is a promise if it is not fulfilled and there is no sincere desire to help small fishers?"

Conclusion

As the Alyansa Agrikultura leaders meet the presidential candidates, they will encounter two issues. The first is that a candidate may not agree with an item in their common agri-fishery action agenda. One such position is that all the coco levy funds should be for the benefit of the small coconut farmers. A

MEETING/ B9

The GSIS Scholarship Program

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is now accepting applications from qualified incoming college students for the GSIS College Scholarship Program for SY 2004-2005.

To qualify under the program, applicants must be legitimate children of active GSIS members and must have a general academic average of 85% or its equivalent.

The following documents, together with the accomplished GSIS Scholarship Program forms, should be submitted to the GSIS Main Office or to the nearest GSIS Branch or District Offices:

- 2 pcs. of passport size picture with signature at the back
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of 4th yr. (3rd Grading) High School Report Card
- Certified copy of their Parent's GSIS policy contract and
- Parent's Certificate of Employment

Qualifiers shall take the GSIS Competitive Examination to be administered by the Center for Educational Measurement.

Scholars can choose from among any of the following 4 or 5-yr. GSIS Priority Courses: Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Computer Science and related IT courses, Economics, Engineering major in Computer, Civil, Electrical & Electronics, Electronics & Communications, Industrial, Management and Mechanical only, Finance, Management, Marketing, Mass Communications, Mathematics and Statistics.

For more details, please visit the GSIS Main Office or your nearest GSIS Branch/District Office or contact Emma, Nelda, Meljune and/or Marisa of the GSIS-HRDD Scholarship Staff at Tel. Nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 locals 4862/4863.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
The GSIS is strong. Now stronger.

Ownership NOW begins at 2.325 M
JAGUAR
NEW VEHICLE 3-Year 100,000 km. WARRANTY
The New 2004 Jaguar X-Type
Flexible Jaguar Finance Plans Available*
*Subject to bank approval

X-Type 2.1L V6 Classic Premium Luxury
Jaguar Ortigas: 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. 633-0185; 633-3976, E-mail. jaguar_ortgs@jaguar.com.ph
Jaguar Makati: ENZO Bldg., 399 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Tel. 897-8888, E-mail. sales@jaguar.com.ph
JAGUAR
Born to perform

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Making affordable healthcare happen

AFFORDABLE healthcare has become a thing of the past. Medical services are now a major family expense, costing hundreds and thousands of pesos each month. Many find even basic healthcare costs and routine prescription medicines out of financial reach. A growing number of families must choose between groceries or medicines, and many decide to take the gamble, choosing the former over the latter. They would rather forego the medication than let the family go hungry. Prescription drugs can be a real budget buster in these economic times. For those with chronic or complicated illnesses, the cost can be prohibitive to continue on prescribed medication every month.

Chronic diseases, which include diabetes, cardiovascular and pulmonary illnesses, are among the most costly of health problems. Since these are considered to be persistent and long-term diseases, long-term treatment is also required to put off the distressing and deadly complications of chronic diseases. Although effective drugs are available that can treat or hamper the development of these diseases, they are usually expensive, posing a barrier on treatment compliance especially for the patients with an average income.

Therefore, adequately addressing the chronic disease burden in our country requires an initiative to make healthcare affordable for the average Filipino patient. Pharmacoeconomics, a concept applying the principles of economics to disease treatment with drugs, can help the medical community achieve this goal.

Simply put, the idea of pharmacoeconomics is the use of affordable and bioequivalent medicines in the treatment of diseases. Bioequivalence means that a drug has the same effect with that of the originator product when given at the same quantity and dosing regimen. Therefore, according to the principles of drug bioequivalence, products demonstrated to be bioequivalent through clinical trial evidences can be regarded and prescribed as an alternative to the standard or innovator products and should also claim the effectiveness and other qualities of the drug.

The idea of pharmacoeconomics is to help the patient be able to take his drug for a longer period of time through a bioequivalent medicine for an eventual translation into optimum clinical benefits at a more reasonable cost. Although the beneficiaries of pharmacoeconomics program are the patients, the clinicians and other healthcare providers play a crucial role in the success of the program. Being an important element in healthcare decision process, doctors have to make sure that they prescribe a proven bioequivalent alternative drug to ensure treatment success.

The introduction of pharmacoeconomics in the country will help solve an array of problems associated with chronic disease. Patients will be able to follow the prescription of their physicians. They are also guaranteed greater protection from their diseases due to the regularity of intake of their medicines and the more costly eventualities or complications can be prevented.

The various divisions of Unilab, a leading pharmaceutical company in the country, are committed to helping improve healthcare delivery to every Filipino family by providing high-quality and affordable medicines for common medical problems. By spearheading the pharmacoeconomics program in the country, it hopes to make medicines accessible to every Filipino.

INQUIRER WELCOMES SM PR OFFICERS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, represented by senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso (right) and assistant vice president for strategic marketing communication Celine Madamba (left), recently welcomed public relations officers from major provincial branches of Shoemart Inc. shown from left, SM Baguio's May Anne Cacdac, SM Davao's Tessa Alforque Piansay, SM Cebu's Aicha Tabanera, SM Iloilo's Kristine Joyce Yap and SM PR coordinator Arlene Castro.

'SCHIZTALK' AT PSYCHIATRY CONFAB

A scientific symposium dubbed 'SchizTalk' was recently held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel during the 30th Annual Convention of the Philippine Psychiatric Association Inc. Shown are the symposium resource persons, from left, psychiatry experts Drs. Anselmo Tronco, Raymond Rosales, Laureen Conanan, and Gerard Salazar. Also shown is Noel de los Reyes (right), product manager of the Central Nervous System of Sanofi-Synthelabo. Schizophrenia is a mental disorder affecting one percent of the population worldwide. At the symposium, Rosales discussed the role of atypical anti-psychotic agents in the treatment of the disease. Amisulpride, Rosales said, is an atypical anti-psychotic established to be effective in controlling both positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia. The symposium was capped by the launch of the new formulation of Amisulpride now available in 400mg.

Travel light with Equitable Travel Card

THE DISTANCE traveled to any place seems shorter these days as compared to a few years back. Many travel gurus around the world advise the modern-day traveler to travel light with these basic rules in mind:

Be prepared to travel - make a list of the important things you want to see. It is easier to find out these things before you travel. Get a good travel agent to help you with your plans, including proper documentation, passports and visas, as well as insurance. Photocopy identification and leave these at home, just in case yours is stolen or lost while traveling. Carry a small amount of cash and a credit card that never compromises choice and makes travel rewarding.

Equitable CardNetwork Inc is leading the way in creating the ultimate travelers' companion with the Equitable Travel Card. Today, there is ease in travel with perks and benefits for the discerning traveler.

It's been 25 years since Equitable Card became authorized to issue local and international credit cards in the Philippines. The high growth potential of the credit card industry led Equitable Card to become a principal member of MasterCard International in 1987.

The affiliation with MasterCard International further strengthened Equitable Card as an easily recognized brand in the local credit card market. Backed by the most number of accredited establishments in the country today and the largest share of the local markets in terms of cardholder base and gross sales volume, Equitable Card has transcended to a higher level. Now, life's privileges and recognition come with the Equitable Travel Card.

The Equitable Travel Card has one of the widest acceptances worldwide. Shop, dine or stay in over 32 million commercial establishments in more than 210 countries wherever the MasterCard symbol is displayed. The Equitable Travel Card creates perks and benefits that soar above the rest.

There are separate credit limits in Peso and Dollar for local and foreign transactions, respectively. Pay only 5 percent of the unpaid or outstanding balance or P500/$50, whichever is higher. Avail yourself of appliances, computer and other big-ticket items payable in 3, 6, 9; 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments at low interest. Cash advance, every time, everywhere at more than 5,000 MegaLink or BancNet ATMs nationwide and access to over 820,000 MasterCard/ Maestro/ Cirrus ATMs around the world. Accumulate Travel E-Points for every P40 purchase and redeem from an exciting selection of reward items, including free trips.

Likewise, avail yourself of 24-hour Equitable Hello Service through the 24-hour hotline 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3264 (Domestic Toll-Free). Access the Equitable Card website, www.equitablecard.com, for statement inquiries and online payments. Get automatic insurance for up to P2 million when you charge your travel fare. Get automatic 24-hour Personal Accident Insurance worth up to five times your previous month's purchases. Settle Equitable Travel Card bills at any of the more than 400 branches of Equitable PCIBank and Equitable Savings Bank nationwide.

Equitable Travel Card is more than your ordinary mileage card. It has one of the lowest exchange rates for earning points: 1 Travel E-Point for every P40 charged versus other card's P45=1 Mile. Plus, there is an outstanding array of local and foreign trips and must-have travel gadgets and gizmos that are free for the taking. Travel the way you want - by land, sea or air. Other cards are limited to a single airline.

Get free credit for two years. Other cards offer first year waiver only. There's more value for your money with savings on interest. There's an interest charge on unpaid or outstanding balance versus other cards' interest on average daily balance.

More shopping money for you-credit limits in both peso and dollar. Other cards accept payments in peso only. There's no joining fee. Membership is free. Other cards charge a P600 joining fee.

Fly high, travel light. Enjoy a bonus of 1,000 Travel E-Points instantly upon first use of your Equitable Travel Card and an additional 1,000 Travel E-Points when you charge a minimum of P200,000. This promo is effective until Aug 7.

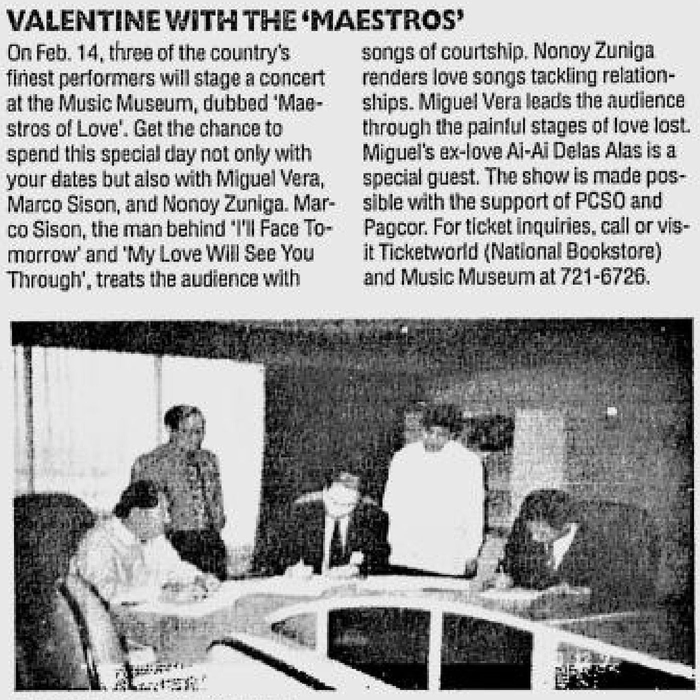
Apply for a free Equitable Travel Card today. Go to any Equitable PCI Bank nearest you or call 867-7977. Plus, get a chance to win one of three trips onboard Star Cruises. Visit www.equitablecard.com for more details.

INQUIRER SALES AWARDEES

The Philippine Daily Inquirer held its 2003 Sales and Marketing Awards Jan. 15 at MyCinema Greenbelt 3. Top performers in the sales and marketing departments were recognized. Among the awardees were, top row, from left, Gloria Lardizabal (for exemplary leadership for circulation), Liberty Lalicon (account executive of the year), and Imelda Limbo (branch manager of the year), both of classifieds' Atrium branch, bottom row, from left, Adela Mendoza (most outstanding sales performance), Aileen Garcia (branch manager of the year, 3rd place) of Cubao branch, and Jhonna Navallo (sales office assistant of the year, 2nd place) of the main office.

VALENTINE WITH THE 'MAESTROS'

On Feb. 14, three of the country's finest performers will stage a concert at the Music Museum, dubbed 'Maestros of Love'. Get the chance to spend this special day not only with your dates but also with Miguel Vera, Marco Sison, and Nonoy Zuniga. Marco Sison, the man behind 'I'll Face Tomorrow' and 'My Love Will See You Through', treats the audience with songs of courtship. Nonoy Zuniga renders love songs tackling relationships. Miguel Vera leads the audience through the painful stages of love lost. Miguel's ex-love Ai-Ai Delas Alas is a special guest. The show is made possible with the support of PCSO and Pagcor. For ticket inquiries, call or visit Ticketworld (National Bookstore) and Music Museum at 721-6726.



APOSTOL SIGNS MOA

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio A. Apostol signs the renewal of the memorandum of agreement for the feasibility studies of Villa Siga and Timbaban Hydroelectric Power Projects together with Korean Consortium of Businessmen head Joon Suk Cho. The first signing of the MOA was held June 2003 in Korea and was witnessed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her state visit. Trans-Asia Philippines Inc, one of the country's leading engineering firms, has been assigned by the Korean Consortium of Businessmen as its local partner to conduct the feasibility studies.

Clips

Epicurean cuisine

GUESTS to the "Acoustic Night", a pre-Valentine special of CSB Hotel on Feb. 13, will be delighted by the epicurean cuisine prepared especially for lovers by executive chef Dennis Peralta for only P350 net per person. The menu consists of Asparagus Studded Seared Tuna with a spicy sun-dried tomato coulis, Minestrone Tuscany Soup with pesto and Parmesan cheese served with foccasia melba toast with a choice of three main courses: Napoleon of Oven Baked Duo of Gensan Tuna and Maya-Maya Fish in pepper herb crust and red wine with Tomato Spaezle or Free Range Chicken Breast Stuffed with Shrimp, assorted herbs, garlic and parmesan cheese, Rose petals infused mash potato in white choco cream sauce or pan-Seared Beef Medallions with Grilled Pineapple-Jicama Salsa, assorted vegetables and coffee infused demi-glace. The dessert is Warm Flourless Chocolate Cake with fresh strawberries and vanilla ice cream. With entertainers such as Gentry and Brian & Anna, expect a perfect Valentine's celebration. CSB Hotel is located at Angelo King International Center, Arellano Avenue corner Estrada Street, Malate, Manila. For tickets, call the sales and marketing office at 400-5455 or 400-3333.

Confab on neonatal medicine

IT IS recognized that effective healthcare delivery by efficient healthcare providers would upgrade the health status of Filipinos. Of utmost importance is the improvement in the delivery of healthcare to the smallest and most fragile patient-the newborn. The Section of Neonatology of the PPS will be having its 1st National Conference in Neonatology. This will be held on Feb. 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. Among the topics for discussion are nutrition for the high-risk neonate, common neonatal drugs, and imaging modalities, Meconium Aspiration Syndrome and persistent pulmonary hypertension. Likewise, workshops on neonatal skills and application of NICU nursing principles will be given to a limited number of participants. For details, call Grace or Josie at 926-6758 or 926-6759, fax 926-2381, or e-mail ppsin@pps.org.ph.

'Willie Nep 4 President'

IN THE midst of the calm before the storm that is the 2004 presidential elections, impersonator extraordinaire Willy Nepomuceno will tickle your funny bones with the satirically hilarious show "Willy Nep 4 President: Vote 1 Take All". Happening on Feb. 12 and 13 at the Music Museum, this Valentine show of sorts differs from the others in this season of hearts. No sappy love songs. No depressing moments. Just a night of pure, unadulterated fun. See and hear Willy Nep do his famous imitations of various public figures-from Ferdinand Marcos to Fidel Ramos to Joseph Estrada to Fernando Poe Jr and many more. Joining Willy on stage are Ate Glow and Kaye Dacer of "Usapang De Campanilla" and "AksYon Ngayon" fame. This show is made possible with the support of PCSO, Pagcor, and San Miguel Beer. For ticket inquiries, call or visit Ticketworld and Music Museum at 721-6726.

Yoshinoya has a heart

YOSHINOYA, Japan's number one beef bowl restaurant, and Heart Evangelista, today's hottest teen idol, invites everyone to taste Yoshinoya's hearty meals and enjoy lots of surprises. Grab the chance to get an autograph and be up close and personal with Yoshinoya's celebrity endorser and hottest teen sensation Heart Evangelista on Feb. 6, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Glorietta Ayala Mall Atrium. Get a free Yoshinoya ballpen and miso soup for every purchase of any Yoshinoya Bowl (except for beef stir-fry noodles). Plus, get a chance to join the raffle promo and win P500 worth of gift certificates and Yoshinoya T-shirts for every purchase of any Yoshinoya Bowl. Yoshinoya branches are located at Park Square 1, SM Southmall and SM Megamall. More branches will soon open at Robinsons Galleria and SM City North Edsa. Promo period ends today, Feb. 6.

UST High reunion

GRADUATES from the University of Santo Tomas High Class of 1954 will celebrate their golden jubilee with a dinner-dance at Sulo Hotel, Quezon City on Feb. 6. A number of alumni from all over the world have arrived to mark this historic occasion. All graduates are requested to call Pinang Maloles Factora (0916-5659889), Rosie Espiritu Palomo (0916-3376270), Rey Jiao (0920-8080399) and Flor Sebastian (0919-3606688). Schedule of activities are as follows: Registration, 5 p.m.; Eucharistic celebration 6 p.m., to be followed by the dinner-dance.

Trinity College at 41

TRINITY College of Quezon City is celebrating its 41st Foundation Day anniversary from Feb. 2 to 7. The theme of this year's commemoration is "Karunungan at Kasipagan: Yaman ng Bayan." Trinity College board chair Jerry M. Navarrete said the theme of the celebration is a timely reminder for the constituents of the college that knowledge and industry are two important ingredients for success, even as he urged them to be unsparing in their efforts to make the college known as a center for academic excellence for various disciplines during the convocation of students which was organized as part of the affair. Trinity alumni are invited to the Alumni Homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. Confirm your attendance and get details from Dante Rarangol at 723-9153, or call the Office of Student Affairs at 415-0635.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 5, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	45.5	45.5	841,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39	38.5	38.5	48,100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.5	130,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	26	130,300
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	200
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	44,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26	26	7,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKARD Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	15,000
First Abacus Financial	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1980	1985	1980	1985	700
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1505	1510	1505	1510	1,830
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.25	16,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	850	845	850	12,550
Ipeople Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	35,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	10,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.039	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.06	1.08	17,848,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	845	855	845	850	229,600
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.25	18	18.25	40,400
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	29.5	28	28.5	1,568,900
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	1,607,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	330,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,903,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,720,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	229,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	16,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	13,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	282,700
RFM Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	170,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55.5	56	73,600
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	22,100
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	56,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.2	0.2	650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	4,843,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	24,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.57	9,980,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	0.98	0.98	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.75	22	21.25	21.25	278,300
Ionics Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.4	368,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	2,590,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	12,780,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	8,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	320,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	12,500
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	550,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.25	0.3	410,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	23,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22.5	22	22.5	75,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	872,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	8,750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	26,938,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	1,100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	6,319,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,030,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	410,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	110,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,700,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,274,330	49,027,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	111,408,050	347,328,795.00
PRO	45,539,000	72,554,300.00
Mining	4,300,000	622,850.00
OIL	2,850,000	63,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	165,371,380	469,597,095.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	437.42	DOWN 8.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,189.75	DOWN 2.55
PRO	540.25	DOWN 10.29
Mining	1,528.68	UP 16.16
OIL	1.27	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	929.95	DOWN 2.27
Composite	1,431.79	DOWN 9.33

CURRENCIES

February 5, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797639	1.000000	56.160000
Japan	Yen	0.007567	0.009487	0.532800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461434	1.832200	102.896400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102567	0.128588	7.221500
Switzerland	Franc	0.637856	0.799680	44.910000
Canada	Dollar	0.598603	0.750469	42.146300
Singapore	Dollar	0.471084	0.590598	33.168000
Australia	Dollar	0.608281	0.762602	42.827700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.115809	2.652590	148.969500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212710	0.266674	14.976400
Brunei	Dollar	0.469891	0.589102	33.084000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.020442	0.025628	1.439300
UAE	Dirham	0.217175	0.272272	15.290800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.253700	70.407800
Argentina	Peso	0.272697	0.341880	19.200000
Brazil	Real	0.272324	0.341413	19.173800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134154	0.168189	9.445500
India	Rupee	0.017627	0.022099	1.241100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209933	0.263193	14.780900
Mexico	New Peso	0.071872	0.090106	5.060400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.542316	0.679902	38.183300
Norway	Kroner	0.114350	0.143361	8.051200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013974	0.017519	0.983900
South Africa	Rand	0.115894	0.145296	8.159800
Korea	Won	0.000683	0.000856	0.048100
Sweden	Kroner	0.108691	0.136266	7.652700
Syria	Pound	0.015488	0.019417	1.090500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023982	0.030066	1.688500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000500	0.000627	0.035200

Stocks soften on interest rate, inflation woes

STOCKS ended lower yesterday after data showed consumer prices rose by a faster-than-expected 3.4 percent in January, raising market worries that interest rates could head higher.

"The data showed that prices are on the way up and that puts pressure on interest rates," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"The market has yet to get over the political uncertainties and here's more bad news."

The main index closed 9.33 points lower at 1,431.79 points, as losers outnumbered gainers 36 to nine. The market is down 0.73 percent so far this year.

Value turnover dipped to P469.71 million from Wednesday's P1.2 billion.

While the January inflation rate was within government expectations, economists said a weak peso and election-related spending could boost prices further this year.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the bank would review its inflation outlook for 2004 but declined comment on a whether authorities would tighten overnight policy rates.

Early this week, the benchmark 91-day T-bill—which commercial banks use to set their lending rates—rose to 6.216 percent from 6.16 percent, partly due to rising political uncertainty and the peso's fall to record lows.

Concern about military unrest helped undermine the peso last week as it fell to a record low of 56.22 against the dollar.

The country's second-biggest lender, Bank of the Philippine Islands, led the market decline, falling 3.19 percent or P1.50 to P45.50.

Ayala Corp., the country's largest conglomerate with interests in property, telecommunications, banking and utilities, dropped 1.69 percent or 10 centavos to P5.80.

Analysts said the market may further decline today on further profit-taking ahead of the weekend.

The market's next range was seen at 1,400 to 1,480.

"The players' attitude is to sell on rallies, so that limits the market's upside," Vistan said.

"There really is no incentive for investors right now. Many are just sidelined," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

Del Castillo said the thin value of trades supports the view that investors are not keen to infuse funds into the market at this point.

"The usual litany of concerns which have been hounding the market continue to affect sentiment," he said.

These include the political uncertainty in advance of the May presidential election, the weak peso and continued destabilization efforts by members of the military, he said. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Corp. changed the venue of its annual stockholders' meeting to Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The meeting will be held on March 26, 9 a.m.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought a total of 204,000 of its own shares at P1.32 each.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. abolished the position of vice president for finance and instead created the position of vice president for human resources and administration which will be occupied by Haide Concepcion who was also designated the company's new compliance officer. Walden Tantuico who occupied the abolished position will continue to serve as chief financial officer and treasurer of the company. Karla Lumen Homena took an indefinite leave of absence from her position as assistant corporate secretary and corporate information officer. Teodorico Jose Delfin was appointed to replace her.

* * *

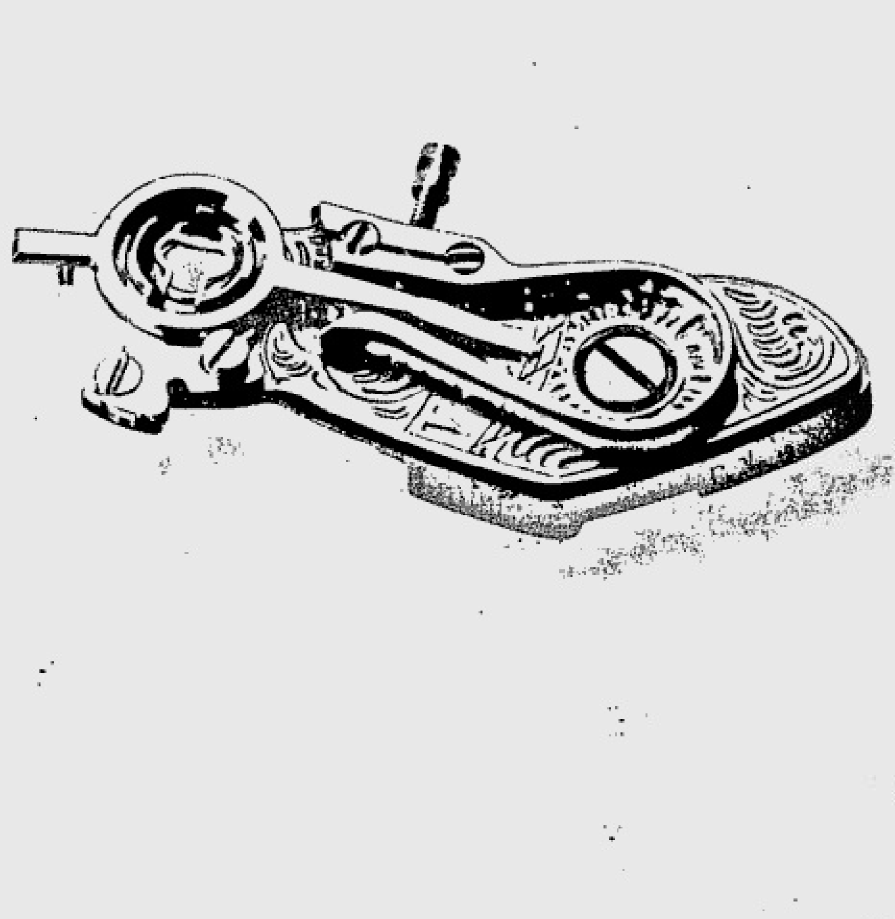
FORTUNE Cement Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Feb. 26, 9 a.m. at the Balagtas Room of Manila Peninsula, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Jan. 28 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

It would be a pity if you didn't look at the Lange 1 movement with a magnifying glass.

But you certainly don't need one to read its patented outsize date.

The Lange 1's balance-cock.
Lange's inimitable watchmaking skill in magnification: free-hand cutting by a master engraver makes every balance-cock unmistakably unique, and the patented whiplash precision index adjuster combines the aesthetic beauty of superb craftsmanship with Lange's watchmaking ingenuity. The result is technical and artistic perfection of a degree which can only be found in Lange watches.
The balance-cock full size:

The Lange 1 with outsize date.
One of mechanical watchmaking's most strikingly useful inventions allows for a date display three times the size of those on conventional wristwatches. The patented double-disc mechanism with over 40 individual components may be the most significant contemporary watchmaking innovation. This mechanism, and the distinctive twin mainspring barrels for three day's power reserve with indicator, makes for an unprecedented watchmaking masterpiece. The Lange 1 is available in 18-carat gold or in platinum.



A. LANGE & SÖHNE
GLASHÜTTE I/SA
XII
25
IX
III
AUF
AB

A. LANGE & SÖHNE
GLASHÜTTE I/SA

Authorised Retailer:
LUCERNE JEWELERS : 140 Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, Philippines 1200

BAP, BSP mull over easing rules on sale of assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are in talks over the possible easing of the implementing rules and regulations governing the sale of the banks' non-performing assets.

BAP president and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair Cesar Virata told reporters yesterday that the easing of the rules on Special Purpose Asset Vehicles would help banks speed up the sale of bad assets.

Virata said the banks proposed that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of bad assets to the SPVs be retained as part of their reserves without declaring these as income.

"We will not recognize it as profit even though we will keep it. That will give us the opportunity to be more aggressive in selling the next batch of non-performing assets," Virata explained.

The BSP is currently processing the applications from nine banks to transfer P6.44 billion worth of bad assets to SPVs.

The SPV Law, which took effect in April last year, intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax relief and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005.

No bank has so far completed the bulk sale of assets to an SPV since the law was enacted partly due to the stringent implementing rules and regulations.

Other banks chose to reduce their NPAs through dacion en pago or using assets to pay off loans.

Banks have also called for the easing of the rules on provisioning for possible losses from the sale of bad assets.

"I think as far as the banks are concerned, what we have been seeking from the central bank was whether we could keep the provisioning and then on whatever we will sell, we will apply the seven-year rule," Virata said.

The seven-year rule allows banks to book provisions on SPV transactions, or funds set aside to cover for possible losses from these transactions, over seven years.

Under the current implementing rules, banks are required to book a specific amount equivalent to the net book value of assets put up for sale.

4th PHILIPPINE DM/CRM Forum

The 4th Philippine DM/CRM Forum
The Premier Learning Event in DM/CRM
March 9-10, 2004, Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Discover how to use Direct Marketing and CRM as your secret weapon

The Secrets of Outsmarting Your Competition and Creating Loyal Customers Revealed!

•Hottest Marketing Opportunities in 2004 and Beyond. Looking In and Out of the Economic Box by Dr. Federico Macaranas, Dean, Center for Development Management, Asian Institute of Management

•Event Marketing That Builds Buzz and Value for Your Brand by Marie Pascual, Managing Director, Rapp Collins, Philippines

•Making CRM Work on A Budget: The Shopwise Experience by Frances Yu, VP for Marketing, Shopwise

•Consensual Marketing. How IBM Increased Sales 80% By Asking Busy Execs How They Want To Be Contacted" by Steve Daskalakis, ASEAN IMC Executive, IBM, Singapore (Invited)

•How To Use Interactive TV and SMS Marketing To Promote Your Products And Increase Sales by Carlo Katigbak, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Interactive

•Using the Power of "E" In Your Marketing Mix by Niren Hiro, GM, Yahoo.com, South Asia (Invited)*

•Total Quality Marketing - Best Practices in Delighting the Customer by Prof. Rene Domingo, Professor, Asian Institute of Management

•Relationship Marketing by Carol Soriano, Regional Marketing Director, Nokia, Singapore

•Welcome to the Club! Practices in B2C Relationship Marketing by Ichay Bulaong, Managing Director, iLeo/FirstDirect

And much more!

PLUS ALL NEW BREAKOUT SESSIONS IN CRM

Reserve now and avail of
•Early Bird Rate of P8,977 +10% VAT
(if paid on or before February 13, 2004)
•Regular rate is P9,977 +10% VAT
•On-site rate is P10,977 +10% VAT
•Student rate is P4,500 (Valid ID required)

For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline or to inquire on exhibitor and sponsor opportunities, call Salt and Light Ventures, Inc. at 8302191, 8132732/45/03 and ask for Mia or e-mail us at slvguru@edsamail.com.ph, or visit us at www.saltandlight ventures.com

Gold sponsors: BCD•PINPOINT PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER bworldonline.com
Official AV provider: MICRODATA
Official Outsource Solutions provider: Global 9, Inc.
Donors: ALLcard Dolmar Press, Inc.
A learning event created and organized by: SALT & LIGHT VENTURES, INC.

Dickie Soriano, Prseident, BCD Pinpoint Direct Marketing

"How to Create Direct Mail & Direct Response Advertising That Get Great Results"

Dr. Ned Roberto, Best-selling author and Professor, International Marketing, Asian Institute of Management

" Positioning: The Real Key to Attracting and Keeping Customers"

Sarah Boussofiane, Managing Partner, OgilvyOne Tokyo (Invited)

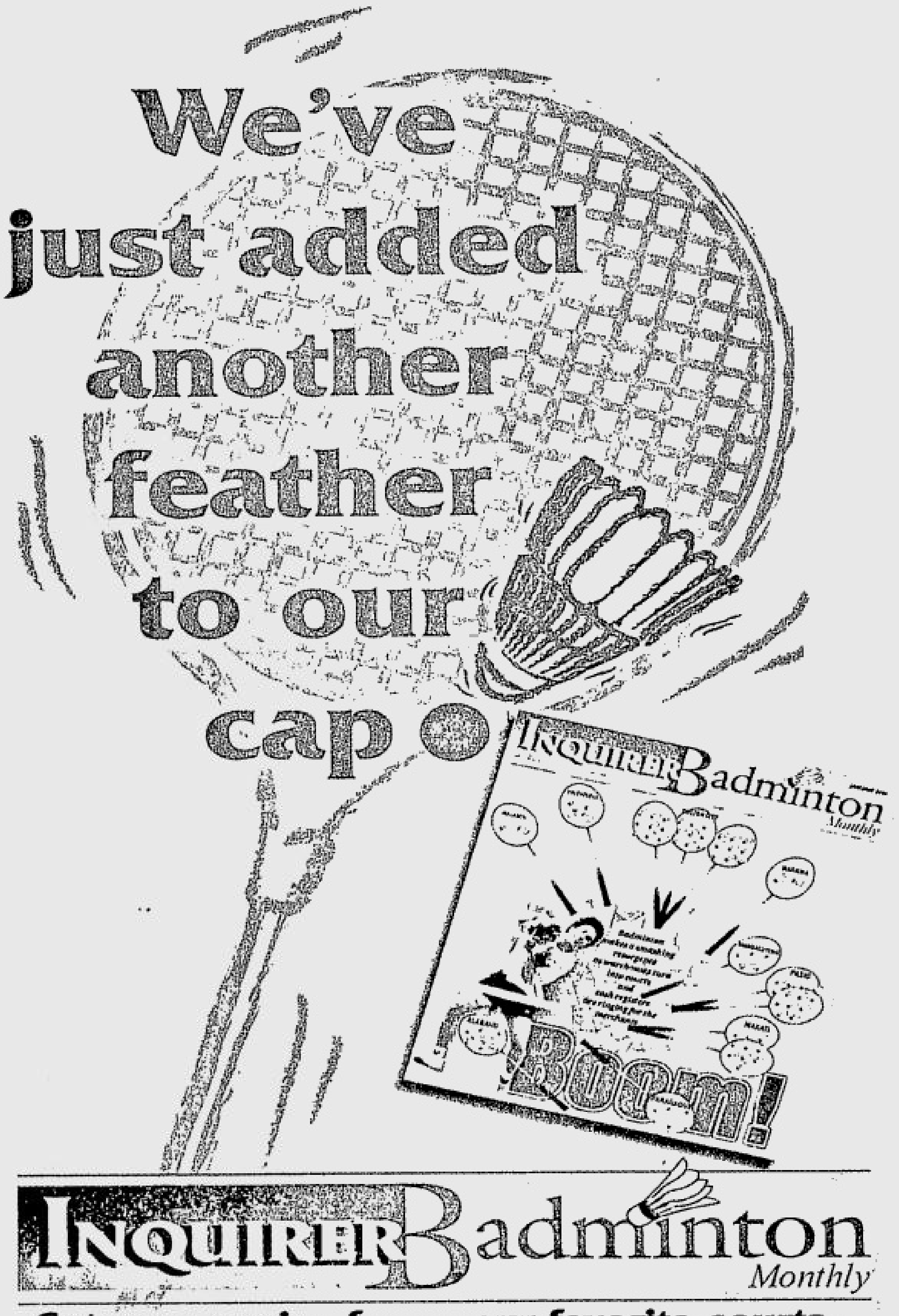
"One-to-One Marketing Trends and Best Practices in the Region"

Rave Reviews:

"Simply too good to miss!"
*Jai Castro, Equitable PCI Bank

" Great Seminar! Hope to get invited again next time."
*Mara Ceguera, CRM Manager, Rustan's

"The (DM) Forum was packed with very practical information that we can use to make our marketing campaigns a lot more effective."
*CheChe Rivera, AIG Credit Cards


We've just added another feather to our cap
INQUIRER Badminton Monthly
Boom!
INQUIRER Badminton Monthly

Get your copies from your favorite courts.

DINERS CLUB MONEY BACK x10* Raffle Promo Oc

₱1,000 x 10 = ₱10

Only Diners Club lets you win back 10x of what you've charged on your credit card. You can win back as much as ₱50,000 in the 5 monthly draws (18 weekly winners) and a maximum of ₱1Million in the Grand Draw!

Start charging with your Diners Club Card NOW and get a chance to win up to ₱1,000,000!
If you don't have one yet, APPLY for a Diners Club Card NOW!

*Based on per qualified transaction.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP, Japan form free-trade negotiating teams

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES and Japan moved a step closer to forging a bilateral free-trade deal, as their respective governments formed negotiating teams that would determine the areas where they could enhance their economic ties.

Ten teams were formed, each consisting of representatives from both countries, and tasked to come up with the details of the proposed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

The idea is to identify the industries that would be covered by the deal.

The teams will focus on specific areas of concern such as the following: trade of goods and services; procurement; cooperation in the improvement of business environment; science and technology; trade facilitation; tourism; mutual recognition and competition policy; intellectual property and dispute settlement.

"Economic cooperation boils down to what we can do together. Because of what is taking place in the global environment, this is something that we really have to do as early as possible," said Trade and Industry Undersecretary for International Relations Thomas Aquino.

Aquino said in a press briefing that some of the industries that the Philippines might propose for inclusion in the JPEPA include services, agriculture, automotive and electronics.

He noted that the huge number of health-care professionals from the Philippines could complement the aging population of Japan and its growing demand for nurses and caregivers.

Aquino also said that a cooperation agreement with Japan would be helpful in the Philippines' efforts to develop trade facilitation at the customs. "The speed in the physical movement of goods in Japan is something that we like to learn from them," he said.

Japanese representatives were in the country until yesterday to finish the first round of negotiations with their Philippine counterparts. The second round of negotiations will take place in Japan in April.

Japan Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ichiro Fujisaki said the JPEPA was aimed not only at boosting each other's economic ties, but also at improving each other's investment climate. With the JPEPA, he said, more Japanese firms could be encouraged to do business in the Philippines, and vice versa.

Fujisaki noted that the crafting a free trade deal with the Philippines was part of the Japanese government's goal of increasing the number of foreign direct investment in Japan.

Without specifying a time frame for the completion of the details of the JPEPA, Aquino said the Philippines and Japan agreed that they need to immediately complete the deal and take advantage of the business opportunities arising from it.

Sugar output target slashed

THE COUNTRY, which is shipping excess sugar to Asian countries for the first time in a decade, yesterday cut its raw sugar output projection by 9.7 percent as farmers curb production due to sliding prices.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration reduced the projected output for the 2003-2004 crop year ending August to 2.05 million tons from 2.27 million, SRA Adminsitrator James Ledesma said.

The Philippines produced 2.16 million tons of raw sugar in crop year 2002-2003, the highest since 1983-1984 when total production of 2.34 million was recorded.

"Because of depressed prices, some farmers will probably opt not to do a second crop," Ledesma said.

Farmers harvest their first crop of sugarcane at the start of the milling season in September and their second crop usually between June and July.

Ledesma said the price of raw sugar in Negros, which accounts for 56 percent of each crop, had fallen to P642 ($11.46) per 50-kg bag from P840 in September due to excess supply.

"Part of our misery is competition caused by smuggled sugar," he added.

One analyst estimated the landed cost of contraband raw sugar at P200 per 50-kg bag.

"World sugar prices are even cheaper than domestic prices due to excess production in Brazil. Without the 65-percent duty on the import of sugar in the Philippines, one can bring in a bag of raw sugar at P200," the analyst said.

Ledesma said the reduction in the country's projected sugar output would not affect its previously announced levels of exports.

The Philippines, a net sugar importer since 1993, has allocated 80,000 tons for export in the current crop year to countries other than the United States to prop up domestic prices.

Last week, it said it would export 29,000 tons of raw sugar to China this month and next. A vessel is currently loading 11,550 tons of raw sugar at the Pulupandan port in Negros for South Korea.

The Philippines also started shipping part of its quota of 137,353 tons to the United States in the current crop year.

Reuters

Gov't keeps hands off dispute between RP carriers, US firms

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT maintains that the termination rates issue, made even more complicated by subpoenas served on local telecommunications executives last month, is a commercial matter best tackled by the telecom firms themselves.

Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in an interview that while the government, through the National Telecommunications Commission, had been supporting the cause of the local carriers, the issue could still be more easily resolved by the local carriers and their American counterparts.

While attending a high-level conference in Honolulu early last month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation served subpoenas on representatives of Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc., Digital Telecommunications Inc., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications Inc., and Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc.

The subpoenas were served to compel Philippine carriers to appear before a federal grand jury investigation on whether or not they violated American anti-trust laws with regard to the long-standing termination rates dispute between the two countries' carriers.

Most of the subpoenaed firms had been involved in a dispute with major US carriers AT&T Corp. and MCI International regarding termination rates.

Termination rates are charges that an originating carrier pays for the completion of its subscribers' calls on a foreign carrier's network.

Philippine carriers decided to raise termination rates effective Feb. 1, 2003 to help them cope with hard times. Rates were jacked up to 12 US cents per minute from 8 US cents for landline calls and to 16 US cents per minute from 12 US cents for mobile phone calls.

Meeting the future president

From page B5

candidate who will oppose this should not get the votes of the farmers and fisherfolk.

The second issue is more problematic. "A candidate might promise to support a position just to get votes, but betray us when he or she has been elected," Tanchuling says. For this, the past track record of each presidential candidate in delivering on promises has to be examined to determine who should get the voters' trust.

In the weeks leading up to the elections, both the positions of the candidates on the agri-fishery action agenda and their track records on promises kept will be major factors in determining who will get the farmer and fisherfolk votes. It is suggested, however, that the rest of the country also uses these factors when they vote for the future president. Because to a large extent, where agriculture goes, so does the nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

When the unexpected happens,

it's good to know you have someone to depend on.

Help is within reach. All you have to do is text.

MEDICard's 24-hour texting services:
- Account status inquiry
- Confinement report
- Inquiry on accredited hospitals and doctors
- Inquiry on doctors per specialization and schedule
- Inquiry on MEDICard Coordinator per hospital
- Member feedback

POWERED BY: nmi

For more information: Text **MEDICARD**
And send to **4627** for Smart and Talk n' Text or **2344** for Globe and Touch Mobile

* info may vary depending on date of database update

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, 1227
Trunkline: 887-2020 Fax: 894-5720; 810-3855 . Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch Mobile) or 4627 (Smart & Talk N' Text) E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com; feedback@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

ober 20, 2003 to February 20, 2004.

THE WORLD'S FIRST CREDIT CARD
No Wonder You'll Enjoy All The "Firsts"

000 or ₱1,000,000

MECHANICS:
1. Get a raffle number for every ₱1,000 minimum purchase charged on your Diners Club Card from October 20, 2003 to February 20, 2004.
2. There will be five (5) monthly draws (18 weekly winners) where you can win back 10x the amount of your winning transaction up to a maximum of ₱50,000. (If your ₱4,900 transaction is the winning number, you win back ₱49,000!)
3. There will be one (1) Grand Draw where you can win back 10x all that you have charged on your Diners Club Card within the promo period up to a maximum of ₱1,000,000. (If your total qualified transactions from October 20, 2003 to February, 20, 2004 is ₱99,000, you win back ₱990,000!)
4. See flyers for complete details.

24-Hour Club Phone: **88-791-88**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2845, Series of 2003

Diners Club International®
3612 345678 0009
SECURITY BANK
CARDMEMBER
RP
MEMBER SINCE 36 DC RP VALID 00/00 THRU 00/00

SBCards
A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Security Bank

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

STD Clinic RAPID Treat
U MAY NOT FEEL N HAV IT
Call 8175071 2178 PTamo

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

BLDG PAINT CLEAN 7264170

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Best Boys

(02)8347357 P250 MASGE

258-13-78 NICE IMAGE

Akhin Thai Masg BAGUIO&MLA (02)8347357 CBU (032)2532597

Anne 0918-2665646 Lic.

FEMALE ESCORT 0927-4060621

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE 11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0920-6274243

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

UNWIND 752-0437

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09194828467

FEELS GOOD 4127758

JOYCE F MASSEUSE 0927-4443341 / 9160938

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•ADEPT TUTORS 8833671

LIGHT 526-8216 / 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572099

DIRECT MAID,YAYA 7284093

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 731-13-13

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

Boy Maid from Prov 7815609

Employment Agency 9287096

GOOD CARING MAIDS 535-93-17 • 0927-480-6767

Good Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

GOOD MAIDS 9957647

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

HSEHELPERS W/NBI 4390075

IDEAL MAID YAYA 7427198

Maid/Cook/Yaya 7329642

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS Call Josie 6737057•6737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya CALL:9124701 • 9124706

Reliable*Affordable*Trained & Screened with Clearances Maid*Yaya*Cook*Labandera Driver*Gardener*Helper Angels at Work 4112704;9260617

We have Maids Nurse Mwife Homecare 4128513/4121922

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313975

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LBahay7433225

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

P600 LIPAT 681-7623

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

BRENTVILLE INTERNATIONAL
Mamplasan, Biñan Laguna
A quality project of FILINVEST LAND, INC.

UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Townhouse Units
Single Detached Houses
· A short walk to Brent Int'l School
· Perfect for Expatriates

ERA REAL ESTATE

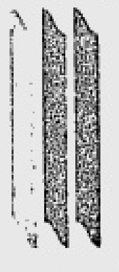
For inquiries, call:
MARIO or YODI
822-1325 · 894-5424
894-5583
e-mail: era@brentville.com

For a limited period, privileged access to the exclusive Palms Country Club, Alabang will be extended to new residents.

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY



ASTORIA PLAZA

RESIDENTIAL UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE:
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom
IN-HOUSE FINANCING
UP TO 5 YEARS TO PAY
AT 0 % INTEREST
AND BANK FINANCING
UP TO 10 YEARS
AT LOW INTEREST
#15 Escriva Drive, Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel#: 910-0372
687-2363 / 631-3929

MANILA

BAYWATCH TOWER
M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

ENJOY THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MANILA BAY
UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE!
Furnished and Unfurnished
Pls. visit or call
5236640 / 5236630
AVAILABLE
Studio, 1, 2 and 3 BR
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Nice 2-storey 4BR w/T&B San Miguel Village, Makati BEST BUY! DBO •896-3927•

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.125M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

3stry 5BR 3TB w/office 4car garage 198m² Barangka Drive Mand P15M T5343784

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

4-5BR Nr. Airport/Mktl 822-9993 • 0922-8088800

QUEZON CITY

One BEATRIZ Tower
1st Class CONDO-OFFICE RESL. CONDO.
AURORA / LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
FOR SALE OR LEASE
Nr. ATENEO * UP * MIRIAM * KOSTKA * PSBA * NCBA
1ST CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S.Pool, Gym, Sauna, Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN @ 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
OPEN until 8 p.m. daily
ROOMS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT (DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY) CALL
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

HOUSE & LOT

PASIG

★ Good Buy ★
VistaVerde Cainta L322 F145 P2.6M 643-6927•0917-3312287

★ NO DP ★
Mercedes Vill LA79 FA93m² 3BR 2TB Garage P33T/mo Call 643-6927 • 0917-3312287

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest 2 2Stry 2Units 3br/u P5.5M(neg) • 932-0844

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview Lipat Agad/Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-8994322

Teachers Village 5BR 4TB 2Car Grge 9132701/9132403

CAVITE

H&L 4BR 1TB 1.3M 163SQM MOLINO CAVITE (02)5640625

LAGUNA

84 Sqm LA 26Sqm FA 2BR 1T&B Binan P600T Neg 09163779512 09183039585

MANILA

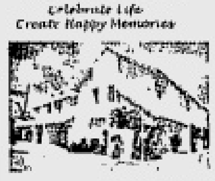
939T Nr UST 0920-8309744

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS
Celebrate Life
Create Happy Memories



Newly Constructed
Top Quality Townhouses
In a PRIME LOCATION,
3 bedrooms w/2 T&B, attic,
living rm w/powder room, dining & kitchen, maid's rm w/T&B,
laundry area,
1 or 2-car covered garage
GFA 110 - 147 SQM
Outstanding features & utilities

PHASES 1, 2 & 3 - 17 UNITS BUILT
2 UNITS LEFT FOR SALE, READY FOR OCCUPANCY
PHASE 4 - 6 UNITS CONSTRUCTION TO START SOON
CUSTOMIZED INTERIOR COLORS / INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE
VERY AFFORDABLE PRICES
Our prices are half the usual condominium prices.
EASY PYMT TERMS W/ BANK & IN-HOUSE FINANCING

VISIT US TODAY AND VIEW OUR MODEL UNIT
90 BANLAT ROAD, TANDANG SORA, QC

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
HLURB License #04012
Tels 8182781, 7515472
Cell 0919-6745430
Email: jubvilla@info.com.ph
www.jubileevillas.com

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

RFO

2BR T/HOUSE
own carport
ATTIC provision
near MALL

call Mandaluyong Sales Ofc
(02)531-0935 * (02)531-1384
(0920)910-0000
Gimmo QC Sales Ofc
(02)721-5507 * (02)721-5508
(0916)6429782
1-800-10RSGHOMES
www.guevent.com/homes

30% DP
in easy installment,
as low as
*P6,606.52/mo.

Other units available: Baguio, Cainta

BROKERS/AGENTS WELCOME!!!

MAKATI

RUSH SALE
Makati Ofc Condo
7th Floor (256 m²) Best Offer
Call 895-7974, M-F, 8-10 am

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

4BR 3TB P2.9M BNEW RFO 15 MIN TO MKT. OR 10% DP TO MOVE-IN 2-5BR ALSO IN ORTIGAS 1ST CLASS 873-64-26. 0919-6375053.

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

DANSALAN GARDENS-Mand. 123br. 10%DP to move-in w /indoor playground & pool Landscape gardens 0916-5945185

QUEZON CITY

C. BENETIZ 3STRY 3BR 2TB furn 6873372 0917-8102903

CUBAO 1.4M 10% DP 9132224

Eastwood City 634-1212

VARIED AREAS

Condo For Sale QC, Mktl, Pasay, Studio 1BR-3BR, RFO, Txt or Call 0919-7899271

For Sale: Ortigas Ofc Condo 143.44sqm&12.5 Prkg 10MM Oxford Suites Studio 38.81sqm 2.5MM •Call 810-5550 (Dorcas)•

LOT

PASIG

38m²-110m² 3Lots Capitolyo Homes Bambang 627-3621

V. Verde 5 3br 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

★ AYALA HILLS ★

ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS
MRS. GASTON 931-2938/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

Nr. LaBrea DnaCrmen F'view 2Lots Total 893m² @P4000 Neg 931-7834 / 0920-4070973

Rush Acropolis 330;414; 514;657m² P30T/m²&up Also hses 6337601-03

MAKATI

LOT

OTHER AREAS

415m² 3,500/m² Francis Ville Antipolo • 8318164

CAVITE

Manila Southwoods 416m² 655-0654 • 656-5716 Rico

Metrogate Ph2 Dasma Rush! 120m²@P3,500 0917-8439799

MEMORIAL LOT

LOYOLA PQUE LOTS 4SALE 8421868 8224327

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

10HAS Gapan N Ecija P50/m² Tel • 374-3605-06

FACTORY/WHSE

ARANETA VILLAGE 2WAREHOUSE 2,080 m² P18M NEAR MONUMENTO CALOOCAN VACANT LOT 6 AVE 1,350 M² P20,000/M² TEL 7342503-04

WANTED TO BUY

EDUC PLAN 2528373/2557990

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Commercial space for rent Mayon St. 7312110; 7312189

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

T.Sora DFV 2BR1TB P8T Call 731-2110 / 731-2189

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

VIVERE SUITE 78sqm 2bd+maid's, 3tb, w/parking. P80T/mo fully furn 807-8085

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt Studio P8.5 1-2br P10T Free Pkg No Due w/Tel 8979417

PASAY

Buendia G/F 115 sqm 2/F-125sqm Tel. 853-2888

PASIG

ULTIMATE 4 EX-PATS NR ADB Ortigas Decorated 2br 2tb + mds Jacuzi bar dishwasher Italian furn fixt air/c maid serv P35T T374-2165 / 67 • 0917-8906844

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1BR/STUD.GARAGE 8992148 SEMI-FURNISH,AIRCON,REF

Unfurn 3BR3TB 1Md 8903104

MANILA

Nr UST 2BR 10T 373-0587

MANDALUYONG

2Sty 2BR nr JRC P6.5T 718-0968

MAND NEW PRKNG 3RM-2CR CLN SAFE 7133259 7150325

PARANAQUE

7164216 8201453 PM SUCAT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 Ladys 9124428.

Stdio w/cargrge P6T 4100650

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

MALABON
Acacia Gov. Pascual Ave.
Concrete Warehouse
Secured Compound Flood Free
Areas: 1,710.46 & 1,100 sqm.
Rent P75/sqm.
Tels. 818-2781/751-5472

ROOM & BOARD

MAND CLN SAFE W/CR STRNG H2O own METER 7133259 / 7150325

STA. MESA awed KTCHN ELEC MTR pasage, CR, RH STRNG H2O 7150325

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN OFW CAR 524-3197

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Studio 28 sqm Cityland Shaw Bside Shang Mall call Leah ofc hrs. 10-5 890-5333 to 50 Mon-Fri.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

ISUZU

'00 M Isuzu Trper 3.1 Big Horn Dsel P410T 2DRS Drk Green 09195056686

TOYOTA

Hilux Surf 4WD 1998 A/T Sunroof Fresh (In&Out) VG Con 390T neg • 995-0632

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Space Gear Serena Safari Terrano MV Previa Town-HI Ace Vanette Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty T-in 9120647 09170342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB 7415897•09208328657

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco Rent A Car-Cars Vans Coaster (02)800-6595

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 7800106

PETS

Dog School 09192050952

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

RUSH AUDIO-VIDEO TECHNICIAN 8990689 / 8971513 / 16

FEMALE

CT SCAN TECH BS RAD TECH ON JOB TRAINING FEMLE 2640 RIZAL AVE STA CRUZ MLA TEL 7111967 7126452

MIDWIFE FOR NWBORN YAYA FOR TODDLER 7320189

SALES PROMO GIRLS White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

MALE/FEMALE

*OFC MKTG. STAFF START ASAP Mr. Madrigal 916-8371

JUSERR INT'L. MANPOWER CORP.
Job Opening:
LIAISON OFFICER

- Male or Female
- 24 years old
- 3 years experience at least
- must have extent knowledge on processing of documents in POEA
- College graduate
- With pleasing personality

Bring resumé, cert of employment, NBI, 2x2 pictures @ 901 C Fedman Bldg., Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City. Call 892-4049 and look for Emily or Maricris.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

•DIRECT HIRE•
OFFICE MKTG STAFF 18/45yo coll level/grad w,w/o exp Start ASAP! 4390398 Marlen

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 4043528 5212773 5899958

LAPTOP TECHNICIAN at least 2yrs Exp. in trouble shooting for loptop computer. Call 633-6367 up to 68 Ms. Joanne

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• FEBRUARY 16, 2004 •
All unredeemed articles from September 1-30, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkti 1PM.
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

NATION Pawnshop, Inc. Pob., Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of Aug. '03 on Feb. 24, '04, 10am. - *Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.*

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Inventory 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2 P30T/month! College Grad. 892-7828

DIRECT SALE

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT SALE! Foodwarmer, low-hipressure Chicken Roteserie, Sinks Ice Crusher, Bonesaw, Hod Gridle, Fryer 9981170

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnership/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item/Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2003-325	150 units Automated Tellering Machines (ATMs) plus 4-year maintenance package	P 135,600,000.00	LBP Funds
2004-001	Various forms for printing (check/cash/ BIR tax payment deposit slip/withdrawal slip	P 2,647,968.90	LBP Funds
2004-007	2 units Server Grade Computers	P 1,846,531.00	LBP Funds
	4 units Laptop Computers	P 320,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on February 26, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on February 13, 2004 at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
SVP, Corporate Services & Subsidiaries Sector
Chairman, Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI - January 30 & February 6, 2004)

A publisher of several widely circulated monthly trade magazines, based in Quezon City, is looking for:

ADVERTISING SALESMAN

- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable college/university
- Wide experience preferred but not required
- Able to communicate well, both oral and written

Qualified applicants may send in their comprehensive bio-data with recent photo indicating their desired compensation package to:

P.B. Box 1295, Manila

or apply in person at:

626 G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late CASTOR LAVARIAS and FELOMINA ESCORPIZO, consisting of two (2) parcels of agricultural land, namely: Lot 1045-C-2 and Lot No. 1045-C-5, both Psd-02-058145, and portions of Lot 1045-C (LRC) Psd-146750, containing an area of 40,000 sq m. each, covered by TCT Nos. T-300199 and T-300200, respectively, both situated in the Barrio of Nabbuan, City of Santiago, Isabela, are the subject of an Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate with Adjudication executed by their heirs before Notary Public Eladio C. Velasco, of Asingan, Pangasinan per Doc. # 478 Page # 96 Book # II Series of 2003.

(PDI – Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2004)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of Nestle Philippines, Inc.

10:30AM TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2004

At: Nestle Philippines Inc. - Tibag, Pulilan, Bulacan

FOOD PROCESSING & PACKAGING MACHINERY, PLANT SERVICES, MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAPS

IN OVER 700 LOTS

LOCATED: NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC. - TIBAG, PULILAN, BULACAN

FOOD PROCESSING/PACKAGING MACHINERY - BUHLER Sifter; Asstd. Stainless Steel Vibratory Sifters; Asstd. Stainless Steel Hoppers; FEDEGIARI Autoclave; KASON Vibroscreen Separator; Asstd. Foot Pedal Bag Sealer; FRANK, LESSON Bursting Testers; Stainless Steel Screw Conveyors; Asstd. Agitators; (2) Flour Storage Silos; CHARNG CHYI Packaging Machine; Ribbon Blender; SCHEIDER Vacuum Dryer; (2) Stainless Steel Pre-dryers; BENISON LB120 Filling Machine; Asstd. Case Sealers, etc.

PLANT SERVICES - MAXITHERM 6MDH/1000 6000KW, 9600 kg/hr Steam Boiler (1995); Cooling Tower; ATLAS COPCO GA55 320CFM Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO FD220 Air Dryer; CARRIER 30G-070-600 Liquid Chiller; Handling Unit,etc.

MISCELLANEOUS - RIGID Pipe Threader; DAYTON 3W 700 Portable Generator; NILFISK 4100 High Pressure Washer; H.D. Vacuum Cleaners; KREBER/TOLEDO 100kg Weighing Scales; Scissor Lift; Fabric Upholstered Clerical/Guest Chairs; Meeting Table; Refrigerators; Window Type Air-conditioners; Clinic Bed; Asstd. Compressor Motors; Asstd. Valves; Asstd. Motors; Asstd. Pumps; Asstd. Control Cabinets; Access Platform; Asstd. Safety Switches; Curtain Walling; Storage Cabinets; Trolleys; Asstd. Exhaust Fans; Product Blowers; Asstd. Hand Pallet Trucks; Asstd. Bearings (unused); Asstd. Safety Lights; Asstd. Drive Chains; Product Conveyors; Asstd. O-rings; Asstd. Drive Gears; Asstd. Electricals; Yard Lights (unused); Hydraulic Cylinders; Asstd. Gear Boxes; Steel/Aluminium Pipe; Stainless Steel Ducting; Racking; Stackable Storage Pallets; Steel Storage Tank; A Large Qty. Steel Scrap, etc.

LOCATED: NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC. - NATIONAL ROAD, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY

NIGATA FWC80 LOC890 Shell/Tube Oil Coolers; MITSUBISHI SJ3000, SJ6000 Bunker/Lube Oil Purifiers; Soft Water Make-up Tank; SOUTHERN CROSS Water Pump; Condensate/Sludge Tanks; (2) NAPIER NHP360K Turbo Chargers; KANAGAWA Oil Filter; Generator Control Panels/Switch Gear; (2) 12KV 3 Pole Load Break Switch Panels; Diesel Fuel Pump Station; KOPPEL AHU; FRANCE TRAFO 5 MVA Power Transformer; SCHOLER Incinerator w/ ATLAS COPCO Compressor; SUNROD PL04 Gas Boiler; Asstd. NIGATA 4MW Generator Spares.

On View: Saturday 7th & Monday 9th February 2004 from 9:00am to 5:00pm
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration),
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

HENRY BUTCHER
Goindustry · INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jellibard Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9587
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela is inviting all interested contractors/suppliers to participate in the sealed public bidding for:

THE SUPPLY AND SYSTEMS DESIGN, SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND TRAINING FOR THE CORN INTEGRATED PRODUCTION AND POST HARVEST FACILITIES (GRAINS HIGHWAY PROJECT) COMPRISING OF A MAIN FACILITIES WHICH WILL COVER NO LESS THAN 1,500 HECTARES AND THREE SATTELITE CORN INTEGRATED PRODUCTION AND POST HARVEST FACILITIES EACH COVERING 500 HECTARES. EACH FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO COMPRISE OF LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING EQUIPMENT AND NECESSARY ATTACHMENT, HARVESTING EQUIPMENT, LSU DRYERS AND BULK STORAGE SILOS. THE EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE ADAPTABLE TO PHILIPPINE TROPICAL CONDITION AND OF THE LATEST DESIGN.

for the modernization Program of the Department of Agriculture Isabela.

BIDDING ACTIVITIES

Submission of Pre-Qualification documents - February 9 to February 20, 2004 at the Provincial General Services Office, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela.

Pre-qualification Conference - February 23, 2004, at the Governor's Office mini-conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela at 10.00 AM.

Bidding - March 15, 2004 at the Governors Office Mini conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela at 10.00 AM

List of pre-qualification requirements can be secured at the BAC Secretariat Office or call Gina at Tel. No. (078) 624-0327.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to withdraw/secure the Term of Reference/Bid proposal upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) and a governors fee of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

All particulars relative to eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) FAUSTINO S. DY, JR.
Provincial Governor

(PDI–Feb. 6 & 13, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested parties to register with NFA and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the *Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS)* in NFA, Cebu Provincial Office. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, but not limited to, stevedoring, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc.

Schedule of Bidding Activities:

- Issuance of Registration Requirements	- Feb. 9-11, 2004
- Deadline for Submission of Registration Reqmts.	- Feb. 18, 2004
- Issuance of Certificate of Official Registration or Notice of Disqualification	- Feb. 23, 2004
- Submission of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	- Feb. 24-25, 2004
- Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Reqmts.	- Mar. 3, 2004
- Issuance of Notice of Eligibility or Non-Eligibility & Issuance of Bid Documents	- Mar. 10, 2004
- Pre-Bidding Conference at 2:00 p.m.	- Mar. 17, 2004
- Submission & Opening of Bid Envelopes at 2:00 p.m.	- Mar. 29, 2004

Interested parties may secure Application for Registration and List of Requirements from the Secretariat, Regional Bids & Awards Committee for Integrated Cargo Handling Services (RBAC-ICHS), 2nd Floor, NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City after payment of a non-transferable, non-refundable application fee of P500.00. Those considered officially registered and have paid an additional bidding fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) may submit their Letter of Intent and secure the Eligibility Requirements from RBAC-ICHS. And only those considered eligible shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper at the 3rd Floor, NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City. For further inquiries, you may contact the Secretariat at tel. nos. 232-1939/232-6832 / Fax 233-6095.

Bid award shall be governed by RA 9184 and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) FLO G. PASCUAL, CESO V
Regional Director

(PDI - Jan. 31 & Feb. 6, 2004)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Tuguegarao
PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cagayan through the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bid for:

Name of Contract	Scope of Work	Availability of Bidding Documents / Fee	Pre-Bid	Submission of Sealed Bid/ Price Proposals / Opening of Bids	Approved Budget for the Contract / Funding Source	Contract Duration or Delivery Schedule
Provision of Security Services to Various Offices of the Provincial Government of Cagayan	Provision of 35 Security Guards	Feb. 6-17, 2004, PBAC Office / P800.00/set	Feb. 17, 2004 10:00 A.M. PA's Conference Room	March 1, 2004 9:00 A.M. PBAC Office / March 1, 2004 10:00 A.M. PA's Conference Room	P3,338,335.00 General Fund (Office of the Governor)	April 1-Dec. 31, 2004

A prospective bidder must have established an office located within the province of Cagayan for a period of two (2) years preceding the date of this invitation.

The criteria and process to be used for the eligibility check, the examination and evaluation of bids and post qualification shall be those as prescribed in pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bid documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee, c/o PPDO, Provincial Capitol, Tuguegarao City with Tel./Fax No. 078-844-1330, upon payment of the corresponding Bid Documents Fee as indicated above.

Every bidder is required to post a Bid Security payable to the Provincial Government of Cagayan in any of the forms in accordance to the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount In % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1½%)
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2½%)

The Provincial Government of Cagayan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

January 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) WILFREDO B. CABAUATAN
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI–Jan. 30 & Feb. 6, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-001

PD Ref. No.: PB040114-EL0001

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
I	WIRELESS MODEM (GSM) FOR C & I REVENUE METERS	80 SETS	P 2,500,000.00
II	DATABASE SERVER INTEL XEON W/ RACK	1 PC	P 500,000.00
III	LASERJET PRINTER	8 UNITS	P 320,000.00
IV	MOBILE PC	5 UNITS	P 500,000.00
V	MOBILE PC	2 UNITS	P 250,000.00
VI	MOBILE PC	1 UNIT	P 150,000.00
VII	DESKTOP PC	3 UNITS	P 560,000.00
VIII	DESKTOP PC	3 UNITS	P 216,000.00
IX	PRINTER MEMORY	1 PC	P 3,000.00
X	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)	10 UNITS	P 200,000.00
XI	DIGITAL CAMERA	4 UNITS	P 120,000.00
XII	DIGITAL CAMERA	1 UNIT	P 27,000.00
XIII	LCD PROJECTOR	1 UNIT	P 250,000.00
XIV	AUTOCAD LT 2004 FULL PRODUCT	1 UNIT	P 88,000.00
XV	SPSS BASE 11.5 OR 12.0 (STANDALONE)	1 UNIT	P 85,900.00
XVI	VISUAL STUDIO NET PROFESSIONAL	1 UNIT	P 18,000.00
XVII	TOAD STANDARD EDITION 7.0	1 UNIT	P 48,000.00
	TOTAL		P 5,750,900.00

3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the attached Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is ***P5,835,900.00*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***February 6-27, 2004*** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials, Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***February 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the Admin Conference Room, G/F TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 a.m. of March 01, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 6 & 13, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
Municipality of Pilar
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(ITB)

February 6, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangay Ala-uli Municipality of Pilar, Province of Bataan. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Pilar, Province of Bataan and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of the 1.95 kilometers of Sitio Aquino Farm to Market Road under Contract Number RIRR 03 011 01 PIL-B.

Project Duration: **88 Calendar Days**
Bidding Documents: **PHP 2,000.00**
Minimum Bid Security: **PHP 30,000.00**
Bid Closing Date: **March 9, 2004**, **Time:** **2:00 p.m.**

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	1,950.00	Sq. Mtrs.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	438.00	Cu. Mtrs.
14	Embankment for Roadway	438.00	Cu. Mtrs.
14(2)	Borrow Materials	621.00	Cu. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	1,170.00	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,170.00	Cu. Mtrs.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned; Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Loader (1 unit) - owned; Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Water truck (1 unit) -owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Pilar, Province of Bataan starting **February 9, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP2,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **February 20, 2004** at 2:00 p.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP30,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan, on or before the Bid closing date on **March 9, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Pilar, Bataan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO F. DE LEON
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 6, 2004)

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn from the world's #1 gemological institute
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Gain professionalism with gems
From the world's leading authority

Colored Stones Diploma Program
starts April 5, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

February 3, 2004

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on February 10, at 2:30 P.M., to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on February 9, 2004. In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first bidding.

Lot No. 003-04 PHIL. INT'L TRADING R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' 'Proceeds to be held in trust.' Floor Price: Php1,089,000.00	1,740 bags, 25 kgs./bag Hefeng Rice 340 bags, 50 kgs./bag Hefeng Rice Note : Water damaged 20% to 30% Subject to selection. Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. Nos. CLHU-2135938. INBU-3335455, TTNU-3685093 and CLHU-2872473.
Lot No. 004-04 PALVIS MERCHANDISING R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' 'Proceeds to be held in trust.' Floor Price: Php345,000.00	600 bags, 25 kgs./bag Refined Sugar (White) Note: Aside from the bid price, an additional clearance of Php16.20/sack will be required, to be paid by the winning bidder to the SRA before release. Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. EOLU-2224012
Lot No. 005-04 VARIOUS CONSIGNEES R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' 'Proceeds to be held in trust.' Floor Price: Php376,000.00	1,504 bags, 50 kgs./bag Damaged Rice (For animal feeds.) Location: Bidder's Warehouse – CTIP Compound, Rosario Extension, Pasig City.

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. Php20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. Submission to the ACDD Proof of Qualification involving regulated commodities, such as rice and sugar (NFA and SRA Licenses).
5. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day.
6. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV – J of CMO 5-2003.
7. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines – BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs
   c. For the account of: ____________________
   Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) ATTY. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS
District Collector of Customs

(PDI–Feb. 6, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the rebidding of the following requirement/s:

Date/ Time & Place of Bidding	March 5, 2004, 2:00 PM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No.	PDPP-2003-204 (Rebidding)
Specification	JOB ORDER Provide labor, tools, materials, equipment and other necessary items needed in the construction of proposed warehouse for 32 MW barges at West Area Complex, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City.
Approved Budget	P1,029,621.00
Pre Bid Conference	February 10, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Submission/Opening of First Envelope (Technical Documents)	February 23, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Submission/Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	March 5, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Administrative and Finance Division, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telephone number 351-0450 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 500.00 starting February 6 – February 20, 2004, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184. Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A bidders Bond equivalent to 2.5% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, GSIS surety bond.

A Performance Bond equivalent to 5% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON J. HOMENA
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI–January 30 & February 6, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Panay Avenue Cor. Scout Reyes St., Quezon City
Tel. No.: 921-2156 • Fax No.: 374-2505

INVITATION FOR A NEGOTIATED SALE

The **NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION** (NTA), through its Disposal Committee, invites interested parties for a Negotiated Sale, on a **"Lot-Stock and Barrel Basis"** of its Golden Leaf Village situated at Bo. San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal.

The Golden Leaf Village has a total land area of 63,513 square meters, with a net saleable area of 54,193 square meters and 91 units of houses.

Minimum Offer is, as follows:

Lot – P2,250.00 per square meter
Houses – P25 Million, lump sum (91 units) on an "as is-where-is basis"

The eligibility requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on 09 February 2004 at the Administrative Department, 3rd Floor, NTA Bldg., at the above address. The deadline for the submission of Negotiated Sale Offers together with the eligibility requirements shall be on or before the close of office hours on 23 February 2004.

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all Offers or any part/s thereof without offering any reason, waive any defect/s contained in any of the Offer/s submitted and/or accept the Offer most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) MAMERTO E. ELLORIN
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI–Feb. 6, 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Col. Alexis Silva Aldeguer (Ret.)

has gone to the loving arms of our Lord
on February 3, 2004.

His bereaved wife **Amelita Cardenas Aldeguer**; children **Yvette Lourdes, Joanne Lourdes and Glenn, Christine Lourdes, Alexandra, Nicole & Carlo**; grandchildren **Marc & Antonio**; brothers and sisters **Marilyn, Mary Jane, Francisco, Magdaleno & Nestor**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Mortuary of Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City** . Necrological services will be on Feb. 9 at 6:00pm. Interment will be on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

In Loving Memory
on the first Death Anniversary of

Jose S. Enejosa, Jr.

who passed away on February 6, 2003.

His wife **Evelyn**; children **Jojo (†), Jeffrey, Jinky (†), Jennifer & Rolando**; grandchildren **Christopher, Alexandria & RJ**; in-laws and other relatives request the readers to pray for his eternal repose.

ATTY. MARCELO M. LINGAO

Retired BIR Regional Director, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 3, 2004 at the age of 94.

His wife **SOFIA**; daughter **DRA. GERMELINA** and family; and granddaughter, **MISSY**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 55 Santiago Street, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 7, 2004 at the La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at San Antonio de Padua Parish Church, Lincoln Street cor. West Riverside, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

In Loving Memory
on the
40TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

AMADO NANTES RACASA

of Lucban, Quezon and Project 4, Quezon City

(September 13, 1922 - February 6, 1964)
Co-Founder, Former Registrar
of Manuel L. Quezon University

His loving wife **Placer**; children **Josefina, Fidel, Aristeo and Elizabeth**; grandchildren **Tintin, Benjo, Roderick, Katherene and Clarence**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered on today at the following Churches:

St. Joseph Shrine, *Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City* .... 6:00 PM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, *Project 4, Quezon City* .... 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, *13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City* .... 6:30 AM
Christ the King Parish, *E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City* .... 6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Cathedral, *New York, Cubao, Quezon City* .... 6:00 PM
Monasterio de Sta. Clara, *Katipunan, Quezon City* .... 6:00 AM

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

VICTORINO NOCUM LAZARO, SR.

November 2, 1933 – February 6, 2003

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go... some stay for a while and leave footprints on our heart and we are never, ever the same."

On the road of life there is one thing we are truly grateful for... having YOU as our father.

To you Pa, a MILLION THANKS!

Annie, Margie, Gigi, Susie & Popo Lazaro

Our sincerest thanks to all those who continue to remember him in their prayers.

A Holy Mass at 5 p.m. will be offered today, Friday, February 6, 2004 at the Mt. Carmel Shrine and Crypt, New Manila, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
email: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-stage bid process for the **Construction and Delivery of Two (2) Multi-Purpose Attack Crafts (MPACs)** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **One Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Four Hundred and Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 145,440,000.00).** The said budget shall be charged against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 Funds.

Only bids from MPAC shipbuilders/manufacturers duly accredited by Marina or its foreign equivalent shall be entertained.

The 1st stage bid documents shall only be available for issuance starting **February 06, 2004 until March 11, 2004** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of **Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 14,500.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **February 18, 2004 at 9:00 AM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for **Submission of 1st Stage Bid Envelopes** will be on **March 12, 2004 at 9:00 AM (local time)** to be immediately followed by the **Opening of Bids** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) JOSE N. FERRER JR
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI – February 6 & 13, 2004)

Culture for a Cause essay writing contest

PURSUANT to Proclamation No. 683 declaring February as the National Arts Month, Gems Production in coordination with the Department of Education through the Center for Curricular Education announces the Culture for a Cause Essay Writing Contest.

In support of this undertaking, the DepED enjoins all public and private third and fourth year high school students to participate in the abovementioned essay writing contest.

Entries should be submitted to the Office of the Regional Director c/o the Chief of the Secondary Education Division. Only two regional entries will be submitted by the region to the Center for Cultural Education, Department of Education, DepED Complex, Dormitory E Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

All mailed entries must be post-marked on or before February 15, 2004. For more details and information, please contact Edna Bohol, overall project director at tel.# (02) 493-4989 or 09178922862 email at **gemsproductions@hotmail.com** or **edngaf@yahoo.com**

FREE NEWSPAPER
INQUIRER DAILY NEWS
FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF BREAKFAST VALUE MEALS
7:00 - 10:00am ONLY.

INQUIRER
Jollibee gives out FREE newspaper!

Participating outlets:

VISAYAS
Danao
Consolacion
Oriente
Colon
Cinerama
Sto. Niño
Cebu Robinsons
Guadalupe
Mango
Centro
Lapu-Lapu
Mactan
Briones
Countrymall
SM2
Gorordo

Bacolod Gatuslao
Bacolod Lacson
Bacolod La Salle
Bacolod Luzuriaga
Bacolod Libertad

Dumaguete

Tagbilaran Alturas
Tagbilaran Marcela

Iloilo E. Lopez
Iloilo La Paz
Iloilo Plazoleta
Iloilo SM Jaro
Kalibo Aklan

MINDANAO
Butuan J. Aquino
Valencia Bukidnon
CDO Limketkai
CDO Megacenter
CDO Cogon
CDO Gaisano Mall
CDO Divisoria
Gensan Gaisano
Marbell KCC
Cotabato Plaza
Davao Digos
Davao Gaisano Mall
Davao Bolton
Davao Matina
Davao Ilustre
Davao NCCC
Davao Tagum
Zambo Camins
Zambo Climaco
Kidapawan

PERDTI REGION VII PERMIT NO. 171 SERIES OF 2003

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9265452

1 STUCK ON YOU
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1 ANG MIKADO MUSICAL CONCERT
2 SHIRI
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 HAUNTED OFFICE
7 LOST ISLAND
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
2 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 SHIRI
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 BROTHER BEAR
7 MONA LISA SMILE
8 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 THE GATHERING
3 SUSPECT
4 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 SHIRI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 SHIRI

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 SHIRI
4 BROTHER BEAR

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 IN THE CUT
2 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 LAST SAMURAI
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
7 BROTHER BEAR
8 SHIRI
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 SHIRI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 STUCK ON YOU
10 IN THE CUT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 STUCK ON YOU
2 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 BROTHER BEAR
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 TWINS EFFECT
11 PURI
12 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

SM CITY MARILAO

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 SHIRI
3 THE GATHERING
4 TWINS EFFECT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 PURI
2 RESERVED
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 TWINS EFFECT
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 SHIRI
7 RESERVED
8 SKY OF LOVE

SM MEGAMALL
6331001

1 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6336000
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 IN THE CUT
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
9 LAST SAMURAI
10 TWINS EFFECT
11 STUCK ON YOU
12 DIABLO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 SHIRI
4 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 SHIRI
8 TWINS EFFECT
9 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
10 HAUNTED OFFICE
11 STUCK ON YOU
12 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM CITY DAVAO
2976598

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 SKY OF LOVE
4 LOST ISLAND
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 PURI
5 DIABLO
6 MONA LISA SMILE

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 SHIRI
2 TWINS EFFECT
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 CABIN FEVER

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1 **MONA LISA SMILE**
1:45 FS/2:15
MF/4:50/7:25/9:25
LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00
END

2 **IN THE CUT**
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:15/4:50/7:25/9:25
LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00
END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA

what to watch

Action

"Spectacular action and impassioned drama! Shiri piles one breathless sequence on top of another."
-Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

A female North Korean sniper named Hee, has led agents Ryu (Han Suk-Gyu) and Lee (Song Kang-Ho) through a nightmare of burnt corpses and bloody crime scenes for ten years before suddenly vanishing. One year later she resurfaces, and with her comes a squad of North Korean commandos who have infiltrated Seoul and master-minded the theft of an experimental explosive.

NOW SHOWING

SHIRI
MTRCB Rating : P13

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

MOVIEWORLD

CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

TOP MOVIE THEATER

Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX
MONA LISA SMILE
12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20

2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 DOLBY DIGITAL	3 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 DTS	4 IN THE CUT 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00 DIGITAL
5 MONA LISA SMILE 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50 DIGITAL	6 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:20, 2:05, 5:55, 9:45 SDDS	7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
8 STUCK ON YOU 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 DOLBY	9 BROTHER BEAR 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 DOLBY	10 KILL BILL 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P75 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 MONA LISA SMILE
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40 DOLBY DIGITAL EX

2 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00 DOLBY	3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DOLBY	4 BROTHER BEAR 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50 DOLBY
5 STUCK ON YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DOLBY	6 IN THE CUT 11:15, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:05, 10:00 SDDS	7 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40 SDDS

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 THE LAST SAMURAI 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 9:00 DOLBY	2 IN THE CUT 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05 SDDS

3 MONA LISA SMILE 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05 DOLBY	4 STUCK ON YOU 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00 DOLBY DIGITAL	5 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:30, 12:50, 4:50, 9:00 DOLBY	7 BROTHER BEAR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 DTS	8 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 DOLBY DIGITAL	2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 DOLBY

3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00 DOLBY	4 STUCK ON YOU 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00 DOLBY	5 BROTHER BEAR 11:20, 1:05, 2:50, 4:35, 6:20, 8:10
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30	7 IN THE CUT 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 DOLBY	8 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:35, 12:40, 4:05, 7:45

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1 MAPUSOK
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 MONA LISA SMILE

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 THE TWINS EFFECT
3 PURI
4 DIABLO
5 THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1 THE LAST SAMURAI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 BROTHER BEAR
5 PURI

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1 PURI
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 BROTHER BEAR

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
875-1927 / 961-5270

1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 PURI
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 DIABLO
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 THE LAST SAMURAI

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 MONA LISA SMILE
DTS
5 DIABLO
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1 MYSTIC RIVER
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 BRIDAL SHOWER
4 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RE-
5 TURN OF THE KING
6 KILL BILL

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
2 SKY OF LOVE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 KILL BILL
5 PURI
6 THE TWINS EFFECT

Stuck on you
mona lisa smile
LAST SAMURAI

NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

ADVANCE SCREENING

* HAUNTED MANSION*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 2

* CHASING LIBERTY*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 6

February 9, 2004 (Monday) 7:30 PM
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

More and more people read Cebu Daily News.

Be one of them.

NEWS
H JOB
Call for tax changes, projects review
Oil prices increase by 40 centavos
DAILY NEWS

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SKY OF LOVE
Ali 2	LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
Ali 3	MONA LISA SMILE
Ali 4	IN THE CUT
Ali 5	LAST SAMURAI
Ali 6	KILL BILL
Ali 7	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB 13	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 14	JOHN FORD COLEY CONCERT
FEB 15	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 22	PBA FIESTA CUP OPENING
FEB 25	PBA GAMES

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAKAT / DOUBLE SEDUCTION
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SEX SCANDAL
B	LORD OF THE RINGS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	PURI
CINEMA-3	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CINEMA-6	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-7	MEMENTO MORI
CINEMA-8	TWINS EFFECT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUCK ON YOU
CINEMA-12	LOTR 3 RETURN OF THE KING
CINEMA-14	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-15	DIABLO

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 3
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-4	CABIN FEVER

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

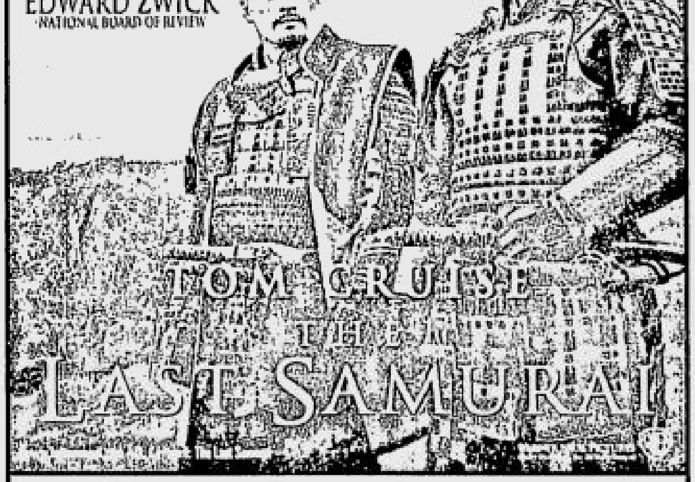
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

4 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR KEN WATANABE
ART DIRECTION • COSTUME DESIGN • SOUND

3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST ACTOR! • TOM CRUISE

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD® NOMINEE
KEN WATANABE BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

WINNER
BEST DIRECTOR
EDWARD ZWICK
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW



NOW SHOWING

SECOND WEEK!

MTRCB RATING ▶ GP | FOR GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED

"A Disney Classic In The Tradition Of 'The Lion King'!"
Jimmy Carter, NBC-TV

Disney PRESENTS
BROTHER BEAR

disney.com/brotherbear ©Disney Enterprises, Inc.

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

DOLBY DIGITAL

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	IN THE CUT 12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40 R18
CINEMA 2	MONALISA SMILE 11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM

FEB. 11	"Game of Love" (Paolo Santos & Bituin Escalante)	9:00PM
FEB. 12 & 13	"VOTE 1 TAKE ALL" (Willie Nep 4 President)	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:05, 9:30	BROTHER BEAR GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	THE LAST SAMURAI PG13 12:40, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
IN THE CUT R18 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	STUCK ON YOU PG13 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00	MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45 PG-18
2	MONA LISA SMILE 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50 PG-13
3	BROTHER BEAR 11:45, 1:45, 3:45 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 GP
4	THE LAST SAMURAI 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:15 PG 13

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	1 STUCK ON YOU	ArtFilm 1 THE CALENDAR GIRLS 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE LAST SAMURAI 2:00 5:10 8:20 11:30	THX 1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 MONA LISA SMILE	2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 MONA LISA SMILE 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 12:30	2 BROTHER BEAR
3 IN THE CUT	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE LAST SAMURAI 1:00 4:10 7:20 10:30	REPERTORY'S FAME Feb 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SEABISCUIT 2:00, 4:50 7:40 10:30	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE LAST SAMURAI	4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS 3		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 STUCK ON YOU 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30	4 IN THE CUT
	5 BROTHER BEAR		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE [illegible]	5 THE LAST SAMURAI
	6 MONA LISA SMILE			
	7 IN THE CUT			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (THX) IN THE CUT
2 (SDDS) LOTR; RETURN OF THE KING
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 (GOLD DTS) STUCK ON YOU
5 (GOLD DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 (GOLD SDDS) MONA LIZA SMILE
7 (GOLD DOLBY) BROTHER BEAR
8 (THX) DIABLO
9 (THX) KILL BILL
10 (THX) A TALE OF TWO SISTER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
3 (DOLBY) BROTHER BEAR
4 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 KILL BILL
2 DAIBLO
3 LOLLIPOP

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 KILL BILL
2 MAPUSOK
3 DIABLO
LAST SAMURAI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LOLLIPOP
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 MAPUSOK
2 LOLLIPOP
3 DIABLO
4 IN THE CUT
5 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
6 LAST SAMURAI

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 WRONG TURN

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LORD OF THE RING-3
2 SCARY MOVIE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BENEATH LOCHNESS
2 NANANABIK
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
RESERVE
5
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 PURI
2 A TALE OF TWO SISTER
3 TWIN EFFECTS
4 (SDDS) MONA LIZA SMILE
5 DIABLO
6 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
7 (DTS) SHIRI
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 DIABLO
2 WISHER
3 (DTS) LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
4 LOLLIPOP
5 LAST SAMURAI

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson INTERNET QUEEN
Lords BELYAS

PARKLANE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KILL BILL
2 DAYO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LIZA SMILE
3 LOLLIPOP
4 SHIRI
5 IN THE CUT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 UNDER WORLD
2 LOLLIPOP

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 621-6242-6400
1 SKY OF LOVE
2 LORD OF THE RINGS 3
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MONA LISA SMILE
4 (SDDS) IN THE CUT
5 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
6 KILL BILL
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 (DTS ES) TWIN EFFECTS
4 THE GRUDGE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE GRUDGE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
4 (DTS) KILL BILL

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 GATHERING
2 INTERNET QUEEN
3 (DOLBY) SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
4 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 (DTS) TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DIABLO
2 (DTS) MONA LIZA SMILE
3 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI
4 TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 (DOLBY) TWIN EFFECTS
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 DIABLO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 SCARY MOVIE
2 THE GRUDGE
3 (DOLBY) KILL BILL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BROTHER BEAR
2 STUCK ON YOU
3 (DOLBY) TWIN EFFECTS
4 (DTS) NAKED WEAPON

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 TWIN EFFECTS
2 KILL BILL
3 SCARY MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MEN
2 AMBISYOSA
3 LOLLIPOP
4 (DTS) ALIPIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 LOLLIPOP
5 DIABLO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 WISHER
2 HIYAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MASK
3 WISHER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SATURDAY SHOWING (ALIPIN)
2 PURI
3 (DTS) LOST ISLAND
4 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PURI
2 BRTHER BEAR
3 MEMENTO MORI
4 LAST SAMURAI

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 KISKISAN

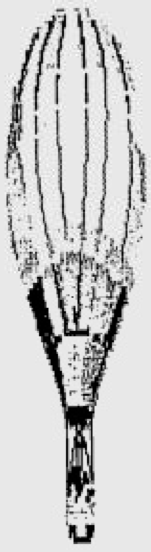
*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

julia roberts
mona lisa smile

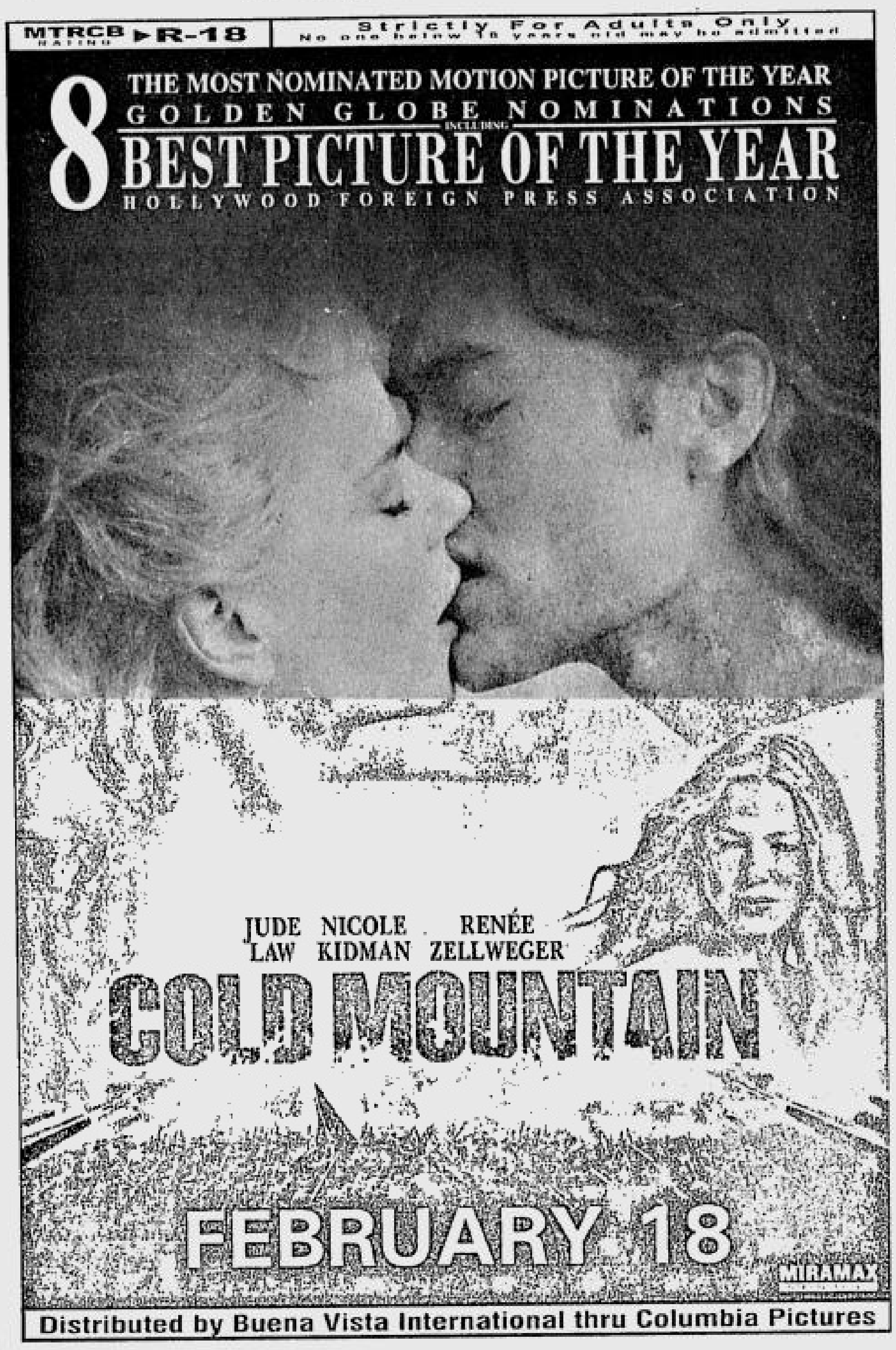
NOW SHOWING



Get your career off the ground.

JOB MARKET

Now on-line at www.jobmarketonline.com



MTRCB RATING ▶R-18 Strictly For Adults Only No one below 18 years old may be admitted

THE MOST NOMINATED MOTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR
8 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
HOLLYWOOD FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION

JUDE LAW NICOLE KIDMAN RENÉE ZELLWEGER

COLD MOUNTAIN

FEBRUARY 18

MIRAMAX

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

and the CITY OF MAKATI in cooperation with Globe AVON present

FAME The Musical

REP GLOBE THEATRE

BROTHER BEAR

NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: GP

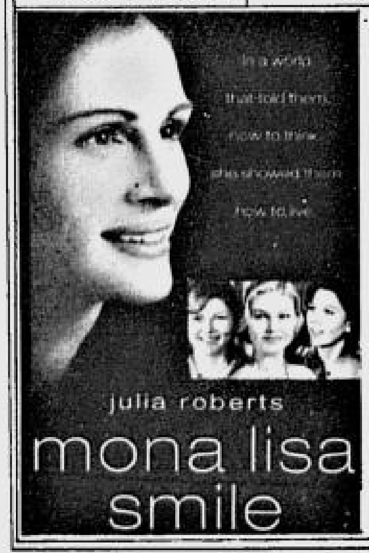
Family Day

AYALA CINEMAS

Ayala Cinemas and Timezone is giving you more!

Visit us at the Alabang Town Center cinema lobby on Feb 7 & 8 and enjoy FREE FACE-PAINTING & BALLOON-TWISTING from 3 - 6 pm

Just present your Brother Bear movie ticket or a P200 new load / re-load Timezone powercard.



MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

in a world that told them how to think she showed them how to live

julia roberts
mona lisa smile

Julia Roberts dazzles in 'Mona Lisa Smile'

Ladies, give yourselves a special treat, and bring your sisters, classmates, girlfriends, Mom, or even a date, to see Julia's new movie.

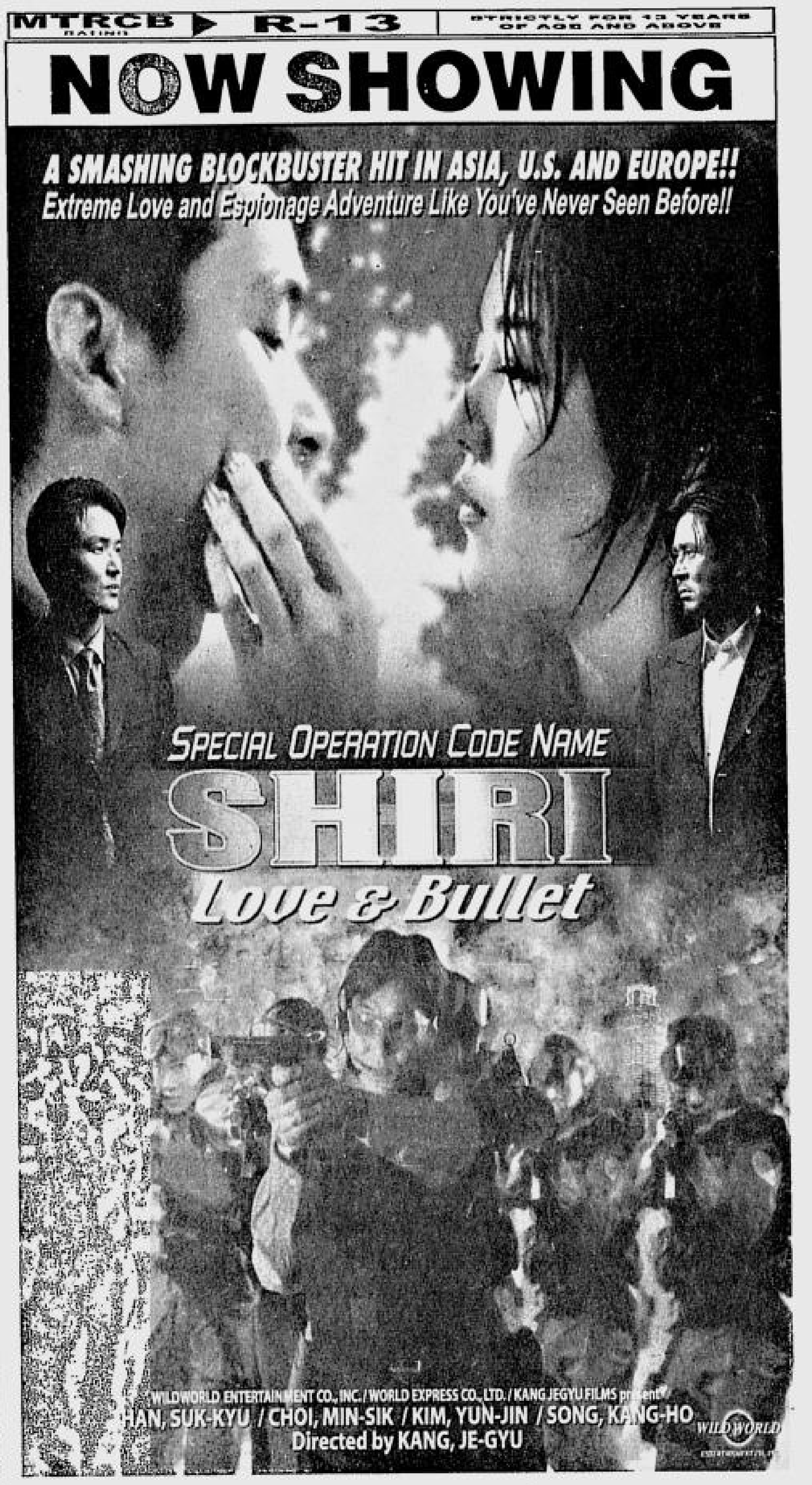
Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts heads a powerhouse cast with today's hot young Hollywood actresses - Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*) and Julia Stiles (*Save the Last Dance, 10 Things I Hate About You*) - in an uplifting, heart-wrenching, and often-times funny drama.

Julia Roberts stars as Katherine, a teacher who challenges her bright female students, and discovers herself along the way.

Mike Newell, director of romantic comedy *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, megs a must-see movie to capture your heart and put a smile on your face.

Warming hearts at a theatre near you

NOW SHOWING



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

NOW SHOWING

A SMASHING BLOCKBUSTER HIT IN ASIA, U.S. AND EUROPE!!
Extreme Love and Espionage Adventure Like You've Never Seen Before!!

SPECIAL OPERATION CODE NAME
SHIRI
Love & Bullet

WILDWORLD ENTERTAINMENT CO., INC. / WORLD EXPRESS CO., LTD. / KANG JEGYU FILMS present
HAN, SUK-KYU / CHOI, MIN-SIK / KIM, YUN-JIN / SONG, KANG-HO
Directed by KANG, JE-GYU

WILDWORLD

AYALA CINEMAS

Stargazing at Ayala Center
Meet & Greet
Claudine Barretto Piolo Pascual
of
MILAN

February 6 (Friday), 2004 - 4:00 PM
Ground Floor - Glorietta 2 Mall
Ayala Center, Makati City

Have your picture taken & signed by the stars of Milan!
Plus win exciting prizes!

Special Thanks to:
STAR CINEMA
ABS-CBN

AYALA CENTER

Napocor to draw up power development plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. moves to avert a possible power shortage by putting together a development plan to meet rising electricity demand.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a briefing that the Napocor would tap private consulting firms to draw up plans to put up new power plants as well as expand or rehabilitate existing ones.

"Napocor is not expected to undertake the new projects," Perez said in a briefing yesterday with industry players.

"The studies are meant for use by private investors who might be interested in putting up new generating capacity," he added.

The official said that Napocor was expected to study the viability of the following projects:

- an integrated coal-fired power plant and coal mine project in Isabela;
- a new natural gas or coal-fired power plant in the Ilocos region;
- hydropower projects in Northern Luzon;
- the expansion of Naga coal and diesel power complex in Cebu; and
- another integrated coal-fired plant and mine in the Cotabato area.

Perez, who also sits as vice-chair of Napocor, said the power firm would also announce soon the bidding for the contract to increase the capacity of the Pulangui hydropower facility in Bukidnon.

"The Pulangui facility has an installed capacity of 255 megawatts," he said." But due to siltation of the river, its dependable capacity dropped to only 60 MW."

The river clean-up project would enable the Pulangui plant to run at maximum capacity, Perez said.

The energy sector is hard pressed to come up with ways to increase generating capacity due to fears that there would be another power crisis over the next 10 years as current plants would not be able to meet the rising demand.

One way of doing this is to get the private sector to take over the existing plants but Napocor has yet to start selling its 35 power plants, as provided under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

Panoramic Sliding Sunroof
Keyless-Go
Entertainment System
Airmatic Suspension System
Bi-Xenon Headlamps
Parktronic
Multi-Function Steering Wheel
Memory Seats
S NP 6072
The E-Class Sedan

The epitome of luxury.

Now available through the Mercedes-Benz flexible Star Financing Plan.
* Subject to bank approval

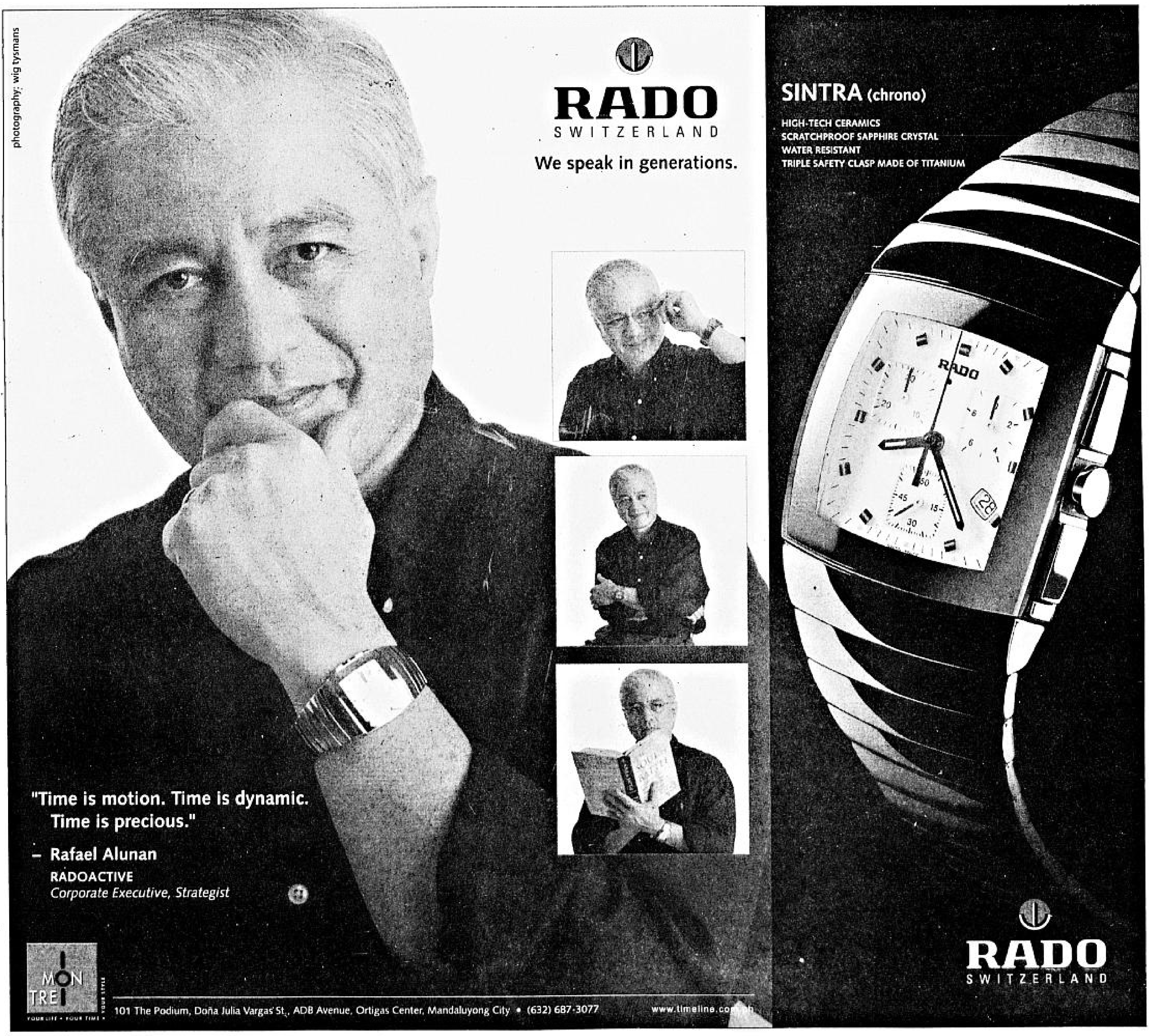
CATS Motors, Inc.

BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
West Car Plaza, 32nd St. cor. Rizal Drive,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
TEL (632) 815 7777 FAX (632) 815 9153

GREENHILLS
1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
TEL (632) 723 5808 FAX (632) 726 7741
E-MAIL mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph WEBSITE www.cats.com.ph

Two years factory warranty.

Mercedes-Benz
The future of the automobile



RADO
SWITZERLAND
We speak in generations.

SINTRA (chrono)
HIGH-TECH CERAMICS
SCRATCHPROOF SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL
WATER RESISTANT
TRIPLE SAFETY CLASP MADE OF TITANIUM

"Time is motion. Time is dynamic.
Time is precious."
– Rafael Alunan
RADOACTIVE
Corporate Executive, Strategist

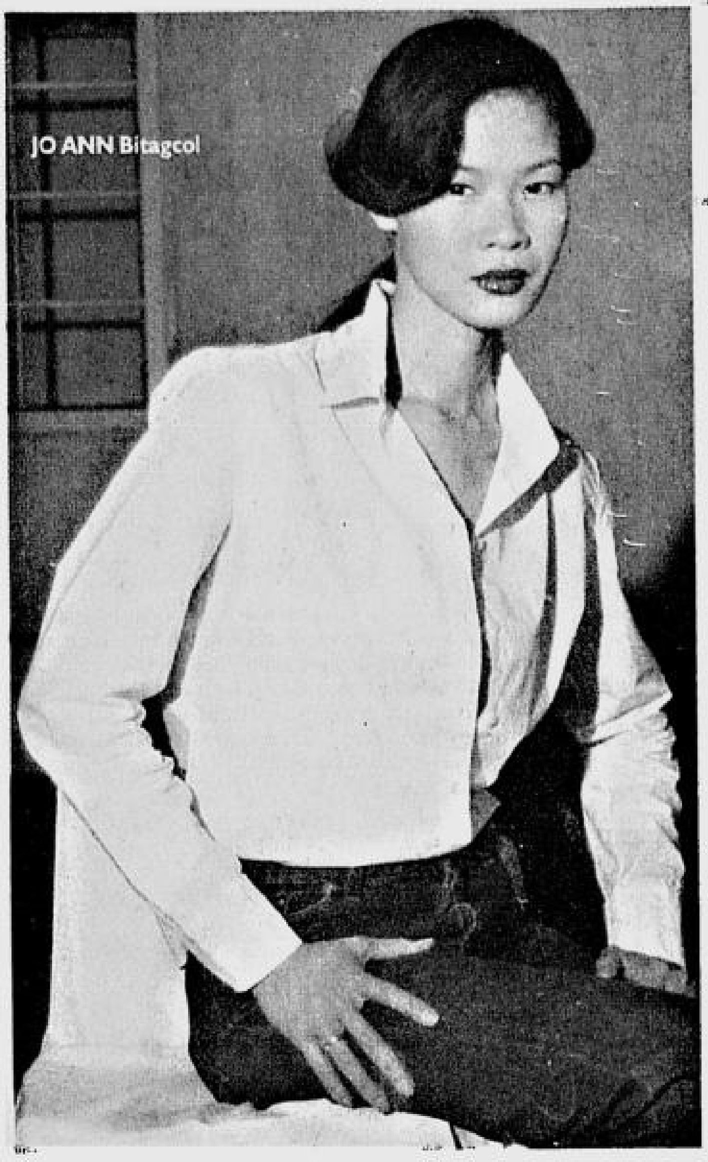
RADO
SWITZERLAND

MON TRE
YOUR LIFE • YOUR TIME • YOUR STYLE
101 The Podium, Doña Julia Vargas St., ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • (632) 687-3077 www.timeline.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
Trend Spotting

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



Supermodel style tips

Part II

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

HERE are more helpful style tips from some of Manila's fashionable supermodels:

Jo Ann Bitagcol
Model/photographer

- Play with colors, especially neon for summer.
- Try rubber or designer (if you have the budget) flip-flops or flat shoes for evening affairs.
- Anything military is a classic.
- Experiment with silhouettes and cuts like shapeless or draped dresses and tops, wide or slim pants.
- Consult a good hair stylist and don't be afraid to try new looks.
- Be open to new ideas and trends but accept only those that suit your personality and style.

Phoemela Barranda
PMAP/TV Host

- My style is very simple, and I firmly believe that less is more.
- One article of clothing that has become my closet staple is a white sando. Make sure you have one, too. On casual days, you can match it with a pair of nice jeans. During dressier events, wear it with a '50s-style full skirt for a hip and modern look.
- Don't try too hard, especially when following the trends. Always consider your age, body type and personality.
- Dump what's not essential in your closet. Leave the basics, which you can update every season.
- Change your look depending on your moods. Be a fashion chameleon and enjoy yourself in the process.
- Accessories are very important in establishing your style factor. So, invest in nice earrings, bags, shoes and the like. It's also the perfect way to turn a casual look into an evening one.
- I always break the rules and

SUPERMODEL/ C2

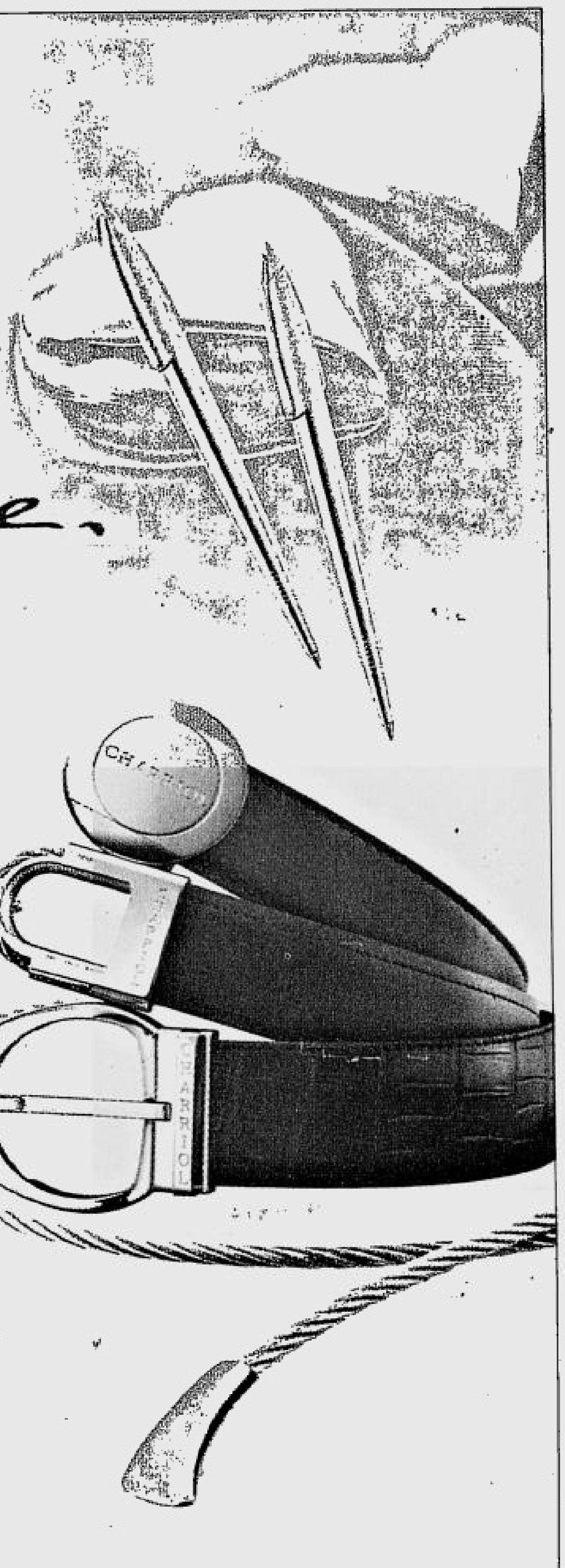
Embrace Your Darling With

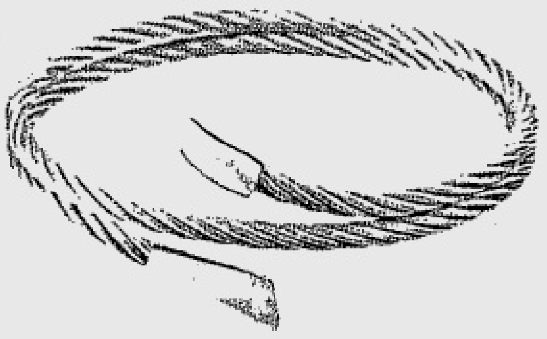
French Romance

by CHARRIOL

"La Vie en Rose!" - A description of the state of mind and behaviour of lovers who are in love. They see in the world in a shade of pink, the colour of love.

French consider that love, like cuisine, should be taken seriously. That's why, at CHARRIOL, we prepare some of our best-selling items and offer you a great gift idea for this festive season. Get ready to shop for your sweetheart today from CHARRIOL! You'll be surprised with the magic spell of French Romance that CHARRIOL dedicatedly prepare.





CHARRIOL
GENEVE

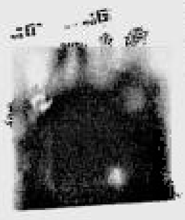
all i want is in
MYGLOBE
musiccentral

You Don't Know My Name
Alicia Keys
The Diary of Alicia Keys
RINGTONE: N1
POLYTONE: T1
WALLPAPER: C1
LYRICS: LY1

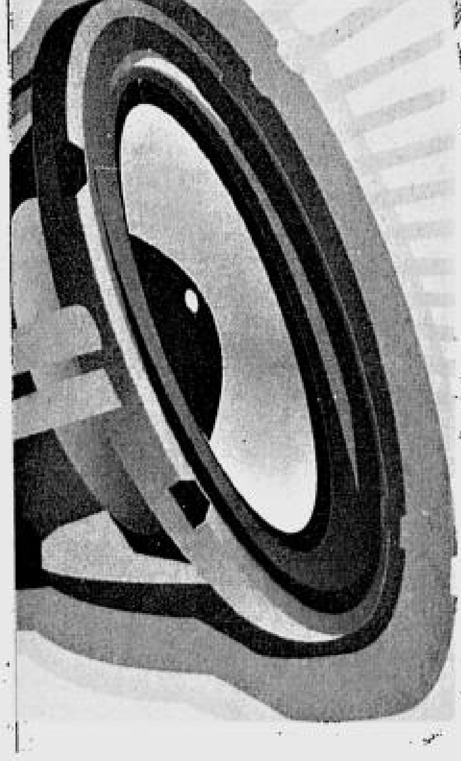
Toxic
Britney Spears
In The Zone
RINGTONE: N2
POLYTONE: T2
WALLPAPER: C2
LYRICS: LY2

Sa Iyo
Sarah Geronimo
Popstar: A Dream Come True
RINGTONE: N3
POLYTONE: T3
WALLPAPER: C3
LYRICS: LY3

God Is A DJ
Pink
Try This
RINGTONE: N4
POLYTONE: T4
WALLPAPER: C4
LYRICS: LY4


Biglaan
6 Cycle Mind
Permission To Shine
RINGTONE: N5
POLYTONE: T5
WALLPAPER: C5
LYRICS: LY5

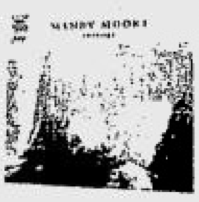
My Immortal
Evanescence
Fallen
RINGTONE: N6
POLYTONE: T6
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY6

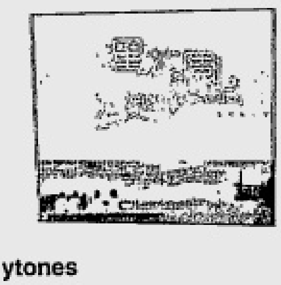


Get a chance to win a Toyota RAV4 or ₱1M cash!
Subscribe to heart-thumping downloads. Text MC to 2949.

Suga Suga
Baby Bash
Tha Smokin' Nephew
RINGTONE: N7
POLYTONE: T7
WALLPAPER: C7
LYRICS: LY7

Milkshake
Kelis
Tasty
RINGTONE: N8
POLYTONE: T8
WALLPAPER: C8
LYRICS: LY8


Moonshadow
Mandy Moore
Coverage
RINGTONE: N9
POLYTONE: T9
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY9


Happy
Alexia
OST-Meteor Garden2
RINGTONE: N10
POLYTONE: T10
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY10

Subscribe to Music Central to qualify for this blast of a promo. Each subscription of ringtones, polytones and lyrics, earns you points for the grand raffle of a Toyota RAV 4 or its cash equivalent of ₱1million.

To subscribe via text, send the following to 2949:
ON1 for ringtones, ON2 for polytones and ON LYRICS for lyrics.

Earn more points when you download other Music Central services.
To download: text keyword to 2949. Ex: Send LY1 to 2949.

Or go to the myGlobe WAP site, scroll to What's Hot and click on Music Central.

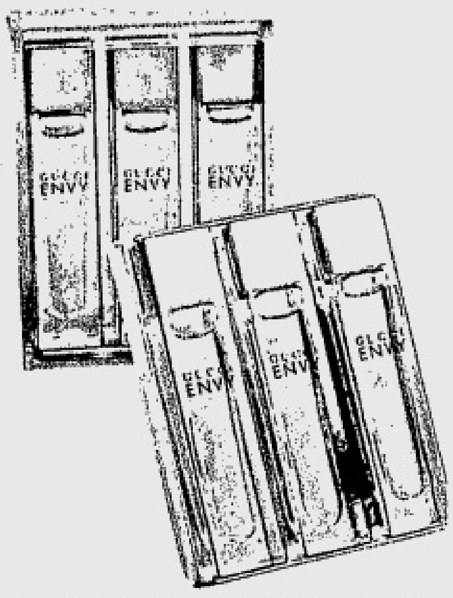
Rates per download or subscription: Ringtone, ₱15; Polytone, Wallpaper & Lyrics, ₱20.

*Download the corresponding polytone for the free Colored Wallpaper.

making great things possible
Globe
HANDYPHONE

Promo runs from January 23 to March 15, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0190, Series of 2004.

Valentine scent-sibilities



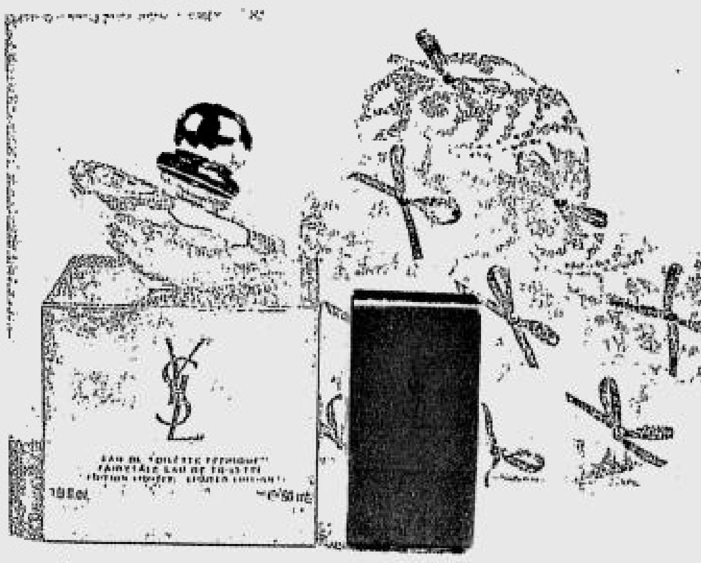
FROM GUCCI Parfums comes another product of luxury. Get it for free. Receive a three-piece Gucci Envy miniature parfum set in plexi box for a minimum purchase of any Gucci Parfums items. Envy is a modern classic, a floral green transparent fragrance inspired by the scent of a vine flower. The promo is ongoing until Feb. 29.

RUSTAN Marketing Corporation offers scents that fan the flame of romance.

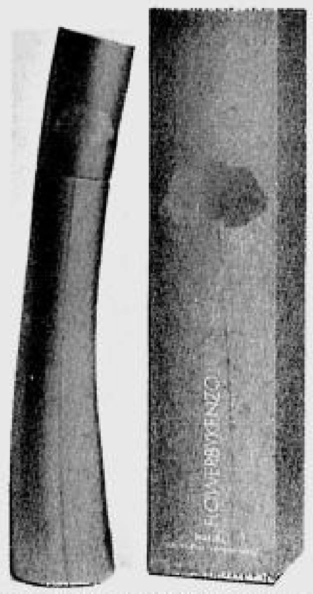
From Elizabeth Arden, the new Red Door Revealed is fun and flirtatious. Exotic orchids top off its rich floral composition. A free pouch contains various Arden products like lipstick, ceramide eye brightener, perpetual moisture creme hydrant continue, ceramide extreme time capsules, Arden Beauty mini eau de parfum and keychain.

So Chic by Carolina Herrera opens with an aromatic blend of fresh cut florals, with sensual woody base notes. An Urban Lights bag is free with every purchase.

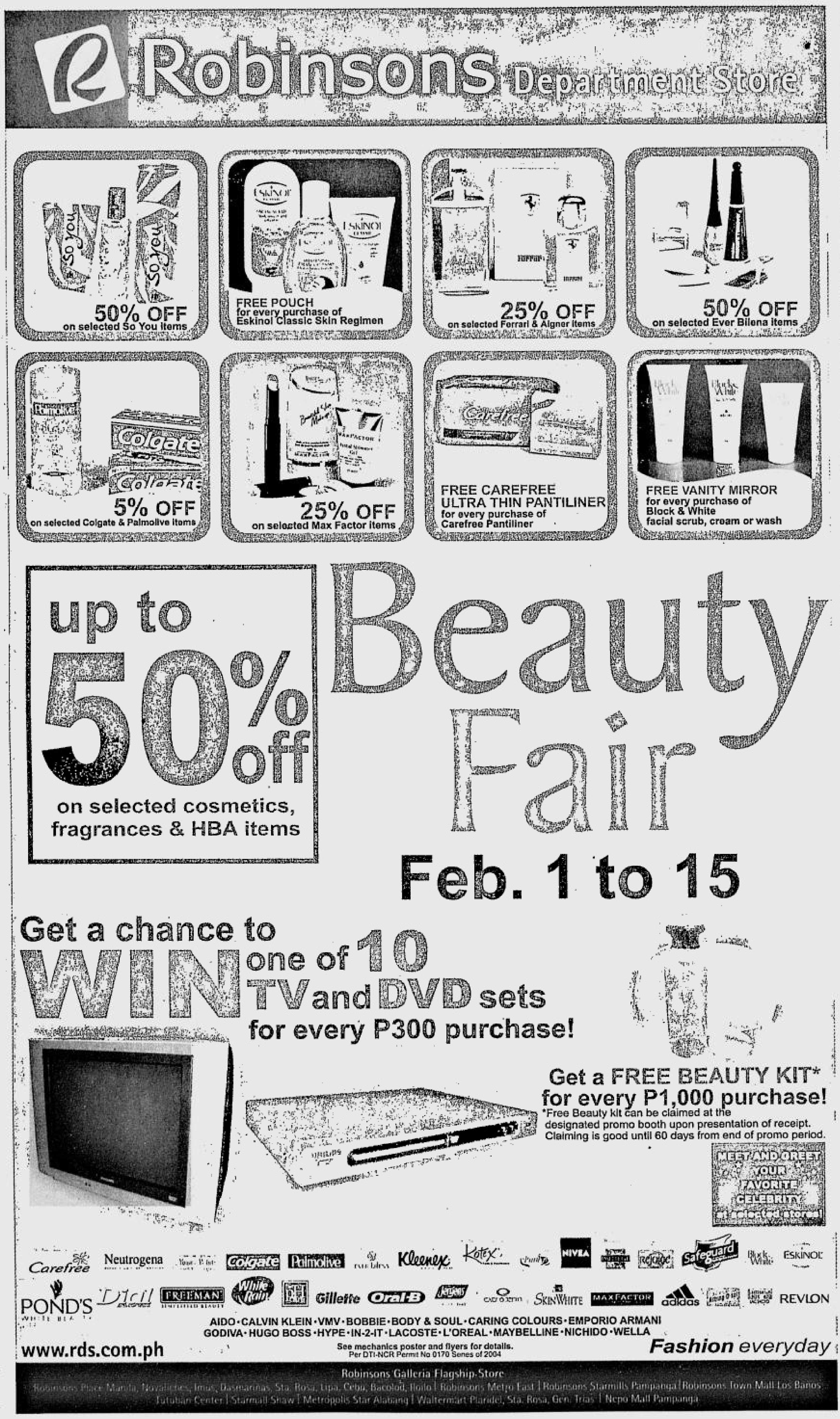
From Paco Rabanne comes Ultraviolet Liquid Crystal. Its lemon floral scent evokes the joys of summer. An Ultraviolet Body Gift Set comes with every purchase.



BABY Doll Fairytale is the limited edition of a classic Yves Saint Laurent. Every purchase comes with a lipstick holder.



FLOWER by Kenzo suits any female's fragrance fantasies. Hints of amber and almonds become the romantic base to the passionate embrace of white musk and bourbon vanilla. Flower by Kenzo is available in three textures, three bottles, for three different types of women. Flower by Kenzo is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and is available at all leading department stores nationwide.



Robinsons Department Store

50% OFF
on selected So You items

FREE POUCH
for every purchase of
Eskinol Classic Skin Regimen

25% OFF
on selected Ferrari & Aigner items

50% OFF
on selected Ever Bilena items

5% OFF
on selected Colgate & Palmolive items

25% OFF
on selected Max Factor items

FREE CAREFREE
ULTRA THIN PANTILINER
for every purchase of
Carefree Pantiliner

FREE VANITY MIRROR
for every purchase of
Block & White
facial scrub, cream or wash

up to
50% off
on selected cosmetics,
fragrances & HBA items

Beauty Fair
Feb. 1 to 15

Get a chance to
WIN one of 10
TV and DVD sets
for every P300 purchase!

Get a FREE BEAUTY KIT*
for every P1,000 purchase!
*Free Beauty kit can be claimed at the designated promo booth upon presentation of receipt. Claiming is good until 60 days from end of promo period.

MEET AND GREET
YOUR
FAVORITE
CELEBRITY
at selected stores!

Carefree · Neutrogena · Colgate · Palmolive · Kleenex · Kotex · NIVEA · Rejoice · Safeguard · Block & White · ESKINOL
POND'S · Dial · FREEMAN · White Rain · Gillette · Oral-B · Jergens · SKINWHITE · MAX FACTOR · adidas · REVLON

AIDO · CALVIN KLEIN · VMV · BOBBIE · BODY & SOUL · CARING COLOURS · EMPORIO ARMANI
GODIVA · HUGO BOSS · HYPE · IN-2-IT · LACOSTE · L'OREAL · MAYBELLINE · NICHIDO · WELLA

www.rds.com.ph

See mechanics poster and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0170 Series of 2004

Fashion everyday

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Dasmariñas, Sta. Rosa, Lipa, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Robinsons Metro East | Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños
Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Plaridel, Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias | Nepo Mall Pampanga

PHOEMELA Barranda

Supermodel style tips

From page C1

follow my own fashion instincts. For instance, I won't hesitate to wear a pink top with red shoes. Go ahead and wear what makes you feel and look good. It's one way to develop your personal style and make you stand out.

Valerie de los Santos

PMAP

- Never sacrifice comfort for fashion.
- Accessories can make or break your outfit. Choose the right pieces like big, interesting earrings, a wide belt or colorful scarf and turn any plain outfit into something fab. Remember that it is always better to invest in classic, good-quality (read: expensive) pieces than in trendy items that you can only wear a couple of times.
- If you are bored with what you have in your closet and don't have the budget to buy a new wardrobe, you can always re-style what you have. For example, cut up a shirt and turn it into a halter or sew on some patches or paint something on it.
- Whenever in doubt, you can never go wrong with black.
- Don't be afraid to mix and match and experiment with what you have. For instance, you can use an old mini dress and wear it over jeans for a funky and fun look.
- Don't be afraid to use color! It will brighten up your whole outfit.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

VALERIE de los Santos

Beauty overhaul

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SOMETIME late last month, I happened to glance at myself as I passed before a full-length mirror and was stunned to immobility.

I was so embarrassed because I felt like I had some nerve to write about beauty when I looked so unkempt. I got so caught up in the holiday rush that I didn't realize my last haircut, color, manicure and pedicure, etc., was early October.

I was long overdue and sure did look like it!

I decided then and there to go for a beauty overhaul and check out establishments outside Makati for readers of this column who don't stay in the area.

Skin. My skin was in real bad shape, so I went in for a diamond peel (microdermabrasion) medium setting and cleaning at Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center (5/F Wellness Center, Shangri-La Edsa Mall, Mandaluyong. Tel. 9104955 to 64).

Microdermabrasion is one of my favorite skin treatments because of instant results. Whether I go for a diamond peel or a power peel, people always comment that I have a certain glow and that my skin looks like polished porcelain.

Dr. Olga, the clinic specialist, was very thorough as she patiently dealt with the many offensive comedones and oil plugs in my skin. There was so much of them that had accumulated from my holiday neglect. The whole treatment cost P2,800.

The clinic also offers cosmetic surgery, the most common of which is rhinoplasty (nose lift). The other most popular treatment is laser hair removal.

Hair: Now that my skin had been taken care of, I decided to get my hair treated at Watercolors Salon on Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan (tel. 7233622).

This was actually more convenient for me because I used to go all the way to the salon's Quezon City branch. My stylist wasn't in, and so was the owner Val de la Fuente, so I decided to try out senior hairstylist Jimmy Rosales, who was highly recommended by Val.

I had the honor of being the first to experience the latest technique Jimmy had learned. My hair came out more or less still the same length but now styled in a wash-and-wear look.

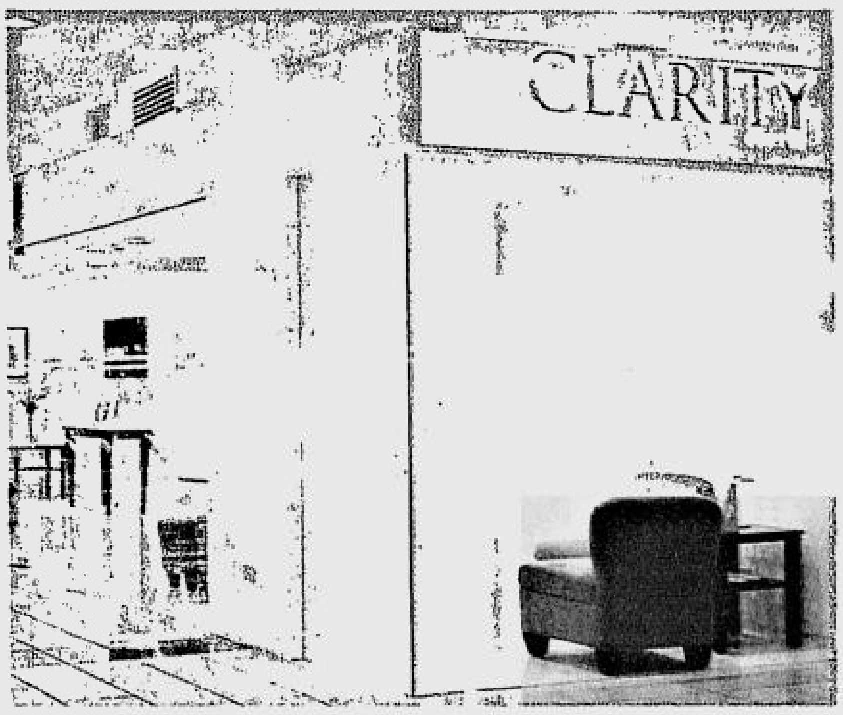
Rean Bedrio also colored and highlighted it in deep shades of red—very dramatic on yellow-toned skin. The good thing about these hairstylists is they consult with you before and during the treatment in case you change your mind, so I knew what they were doing every step of the way.

> It may have taken me seven hours to undergo thorough primping, but I went home a new and more presentable woman

Lastly, I went for the salon's trademark thermal hair conditioning treatment, which helps even the most damaged hair recover.

My damp, conditioned hair was ironed, sealing in the moisture and ensuring that it would be silky and manageable. The scalp massage of shampoo boy Alvin was also very effective.

The salon has pocket-friendly prices, despite the fact that Val and his stylists fly abroad regularly to update their techniques and learn new treatments. My haircut cost only P400 (P450 if it's Val) and the thermal conditioning was P800 for short hair, P1,000 for medium length and P1,200 for hair up to the shoulders.



CLARITY Aesthetic and Laser Center

Thermal conditioning, by the way, is perfect for rebonded hair, which is also Watercolors Salon's forte. Val himself trained with Yoki San, the Japanese woman who invented the procedure.

I also went for a manicure, pedicure, eyebrow and upper lip wax with Che Che Francisco, who did a very thorough job down to the shaping of my brows.

It may have taken me seven hours to undergo all these, but I went home a new and more presentable woman.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

GEM Reck Hair Glitter

Sensational new soaps

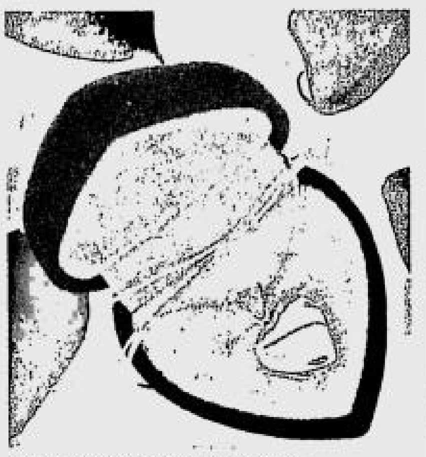
LUSH offers new products for chic makeovers and intimate nights.

Gem Reck Hair Glitter (P295) is a solid, round gold glitter bar that will leave you sparkling like a fairy. This new and ingenious hair cosmetic delivers as much glitter as you dare to wear. Simply stroke it onto the hair, and the delightfully sensual blend of rose, neroli and vanilla will stay with you well into Valentine's Day.

Tisty Tosty (P195), meanwhile, is a heart-shaped ballistic soap mat that smells of roses and beautiful, traditional orris perfume. Each one contains seven rosebuds to make your bath experience one-of-a-kind.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Lush boutiques are located at Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3. Visit www.lush.com.ph

---



HEART-SHAPED locket from Silverworks

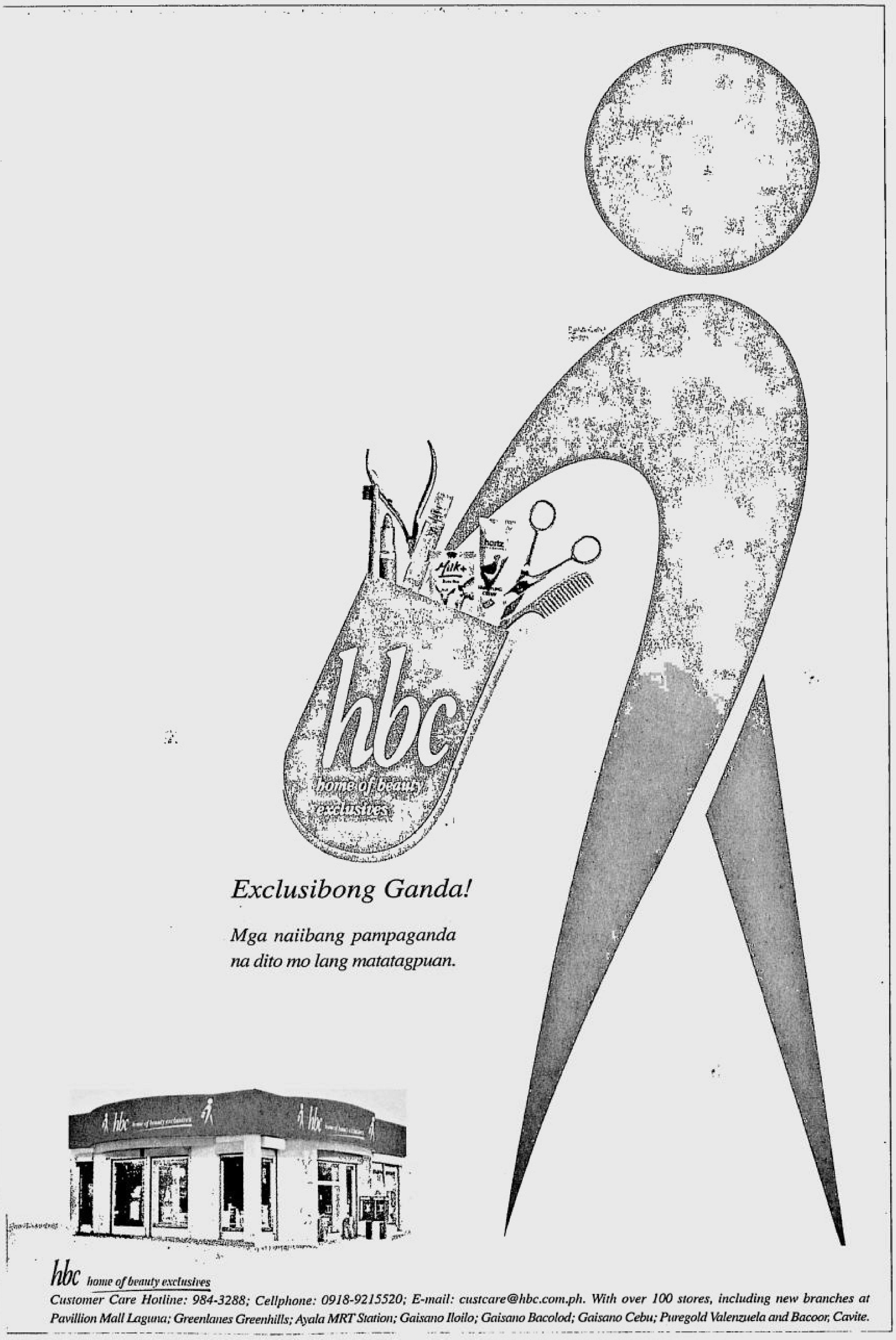
Give a heart this Valentine

SILVERWORKS is offering hearts this Valentine season—sterling silver heart lockets on a chain at only P450.

The locket, which can hold a picture of your loved one, and the chain are packed in a box specially designed for the occasion.

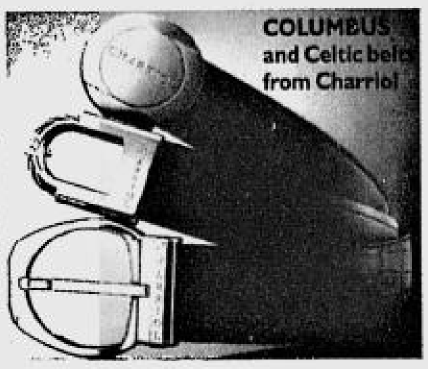
Drop by any Silverworks store and check out new fashion accessories.

Silverworks is at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Lipa and in all major malls.



hbc
home of beauty exclusives
Exclusibong Ganda!
Mga naiibang pampaganda
na dito mo lang matatagpuan.
hbc home of beauty exclusives
Customer Care Hotline: 984-3288; Cellphone: 0918-9215520; E-mail: custcare@hbc.com.ph. With over 100 stores, including new branches at Pavillion Mall Laguna; Greenlanes Greenhills; Ayala MRT Station; Gaisano Iloilo; Gaisano Bacolod; Gaisano Cebu; Puregold Valenzuela and Bacoor, Cavite.

Great gift ideas from French fashion house


COLUMBUS and Celtic bel from Charriol

CHARRIOL offers great gift ideas for Valentine's Day with its new Columbus and Celtic leather belt collection for men.

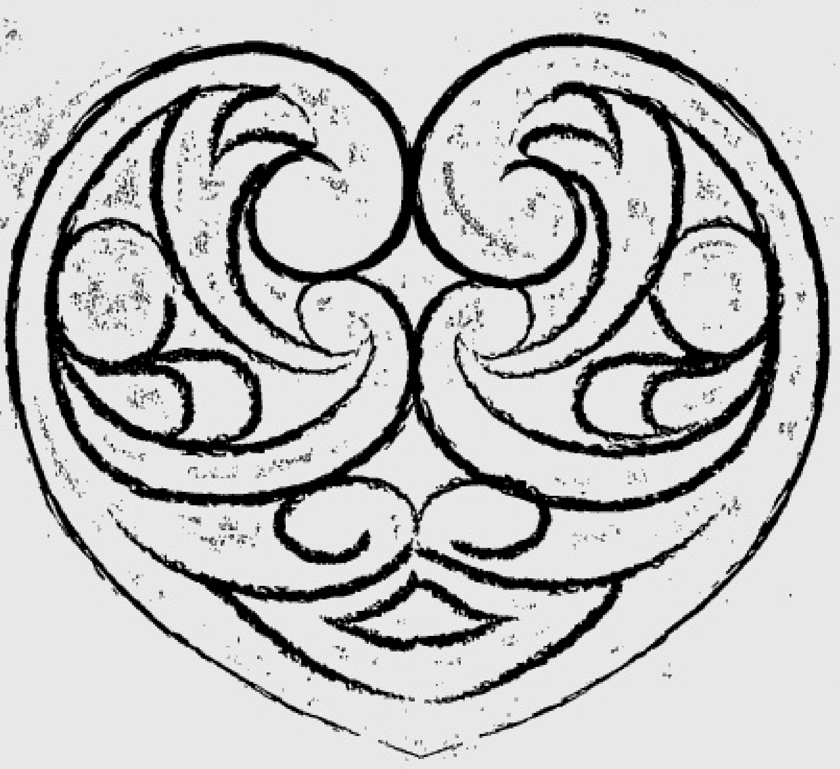
The Celtic buckle design originates from Celtic myths and symbols, and is given a unique character by Charriol.

The Columbus collection also offers a series of stylish yet aristocratic accessories for men. The finely designed buckles are available in rectangular, round and tonneau shapes with decorative side screws.

The leather comes in a range of choices, including pressed crocodile or lizard reamer and plain calf leather.

For women, the dazzling Megeve pen will definitely make a matchless gift. The emblems of Charriol are patterned vertically on the pen, surrounding its point. The sleek, slender and lightweight instrument employs excellent jewelry craftsmanship.

Charriol is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Charriol stores are located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Greenbelt 4 mall, Rustan's Makati in Ayala Center, Rustan's Tower in Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, and Rustan's Ayala Center Cebu.



charm hearts this valentine's
at the jewelry fair of Greenhills Shopping Center.

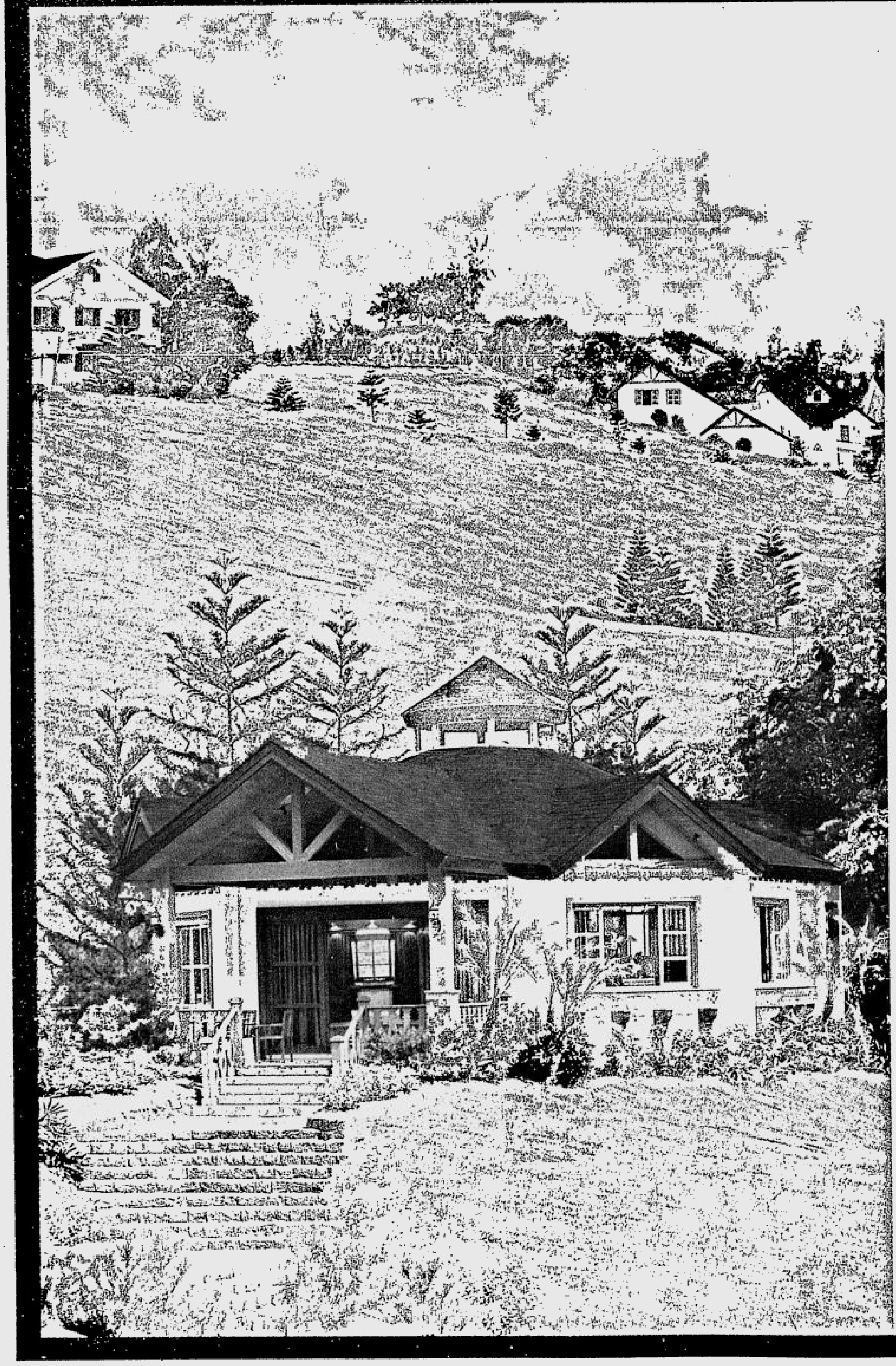
Beginning Feb. 6 to 29, GSC will feature 300 stalls dressed up in the finest Maranao decor – offering the widest array of affordable jewelry and fashion accessories, from beads to pearls, to silvers and golds. Plus, get a free ice cream treat when you shop with your date on Valentine's!

Charm your way to a loved one's heart at GSC, the Valentine shopping authority.

get free ice cream when you shop on Valentine's!

SHOPPING CENTER
ORTIGAS & COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

www.greenhills.com.ph


HOME SWISS HOME

At Crosswinds, you could have your very own little piece of Switzerland, whether it's land for a future home or a chalet you can live in right away.

The homes combine Swiss-inspired wood patterns, wide porches and overhanging eaves. The interiors feature a wide open space, perfect for family gatherings.

And the homes are set against gentle, rolling hills, surrounded by pine trees under a calm, quiet ambience.

It's a great life at Crosswinds–your home Swiss home.

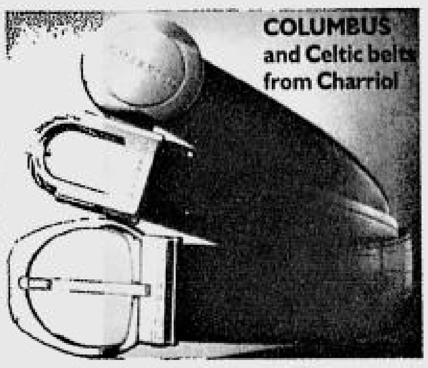
To know more about **Crosswinds, Tagaytay,** call us at **850 6986** and **850 2868** or email us at **mktg@brittany.com.ph**. Or come over to Crosswinds and see what the Swiss life is all about.

TO MANILA
TO AMADEO
TO MENDEZ
TAGAYTAY CITY HALL
TAAL VISTA LODGE
ROTONDA
TO SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY VIA STA. ROSA
CROSSWINDS Tagaytay
PEOPLE'S PARK
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS
PICNIC GROVE

CROSSWINDS
Life is great

Brittany
CORPORATION

Great gift ideas from French fashion house



CHARRIOL offers great gift ideas for Valentine's Day with its new Columbus and Celtic leather belt collection for men.

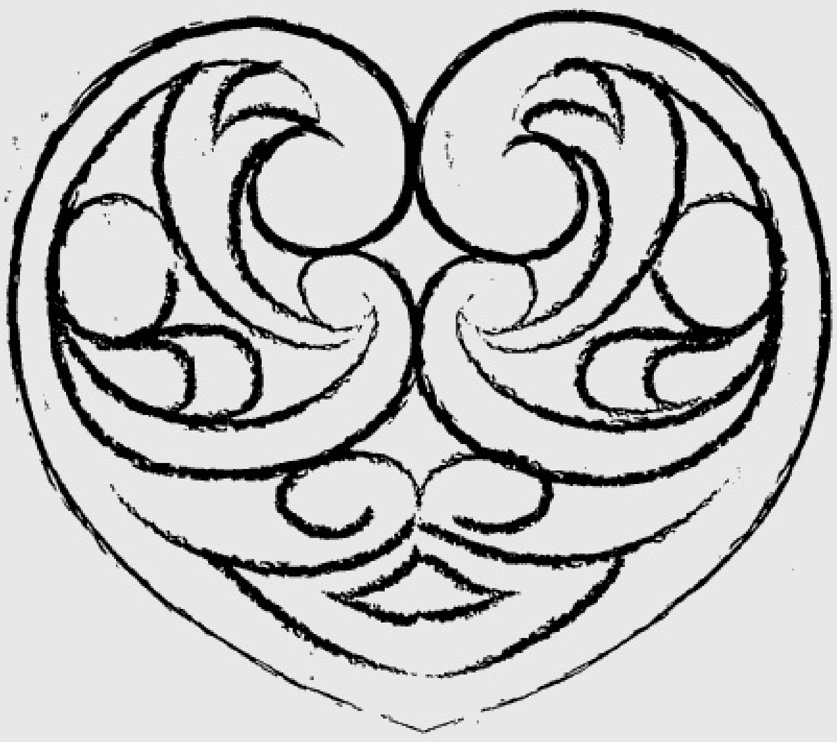
The Celtic buckle design originates from Celtic myths and symbols, and is given a unique character by Charriol.

The Columbus collection also offers a series of stylish yet aristocratic accessories for men. The finely designed buckles are available in rectangular, round and tonneau shapes with decorative side screws.

The leather comes in a range of choices, including pressed crocodile or lizard reamer and plain calf leather.

For women, the dazzling Megeve pen will definitely make a matchless gift. The emblems of Charriol are patterned vertically on the pen, surrounding its point. The sleek, slender and lightweight instrument employs excellent jewelry craftsmanship.

Charriol is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Charriol stores are located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Greenbelt 4 mall, Rustan's Makati in Ayala Center, Rustan's Tower in Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, and Rustan's Ayala Center Cebu.



charm hearts this valentine's

at the jewelry fair of Greenhills Shopping Center.

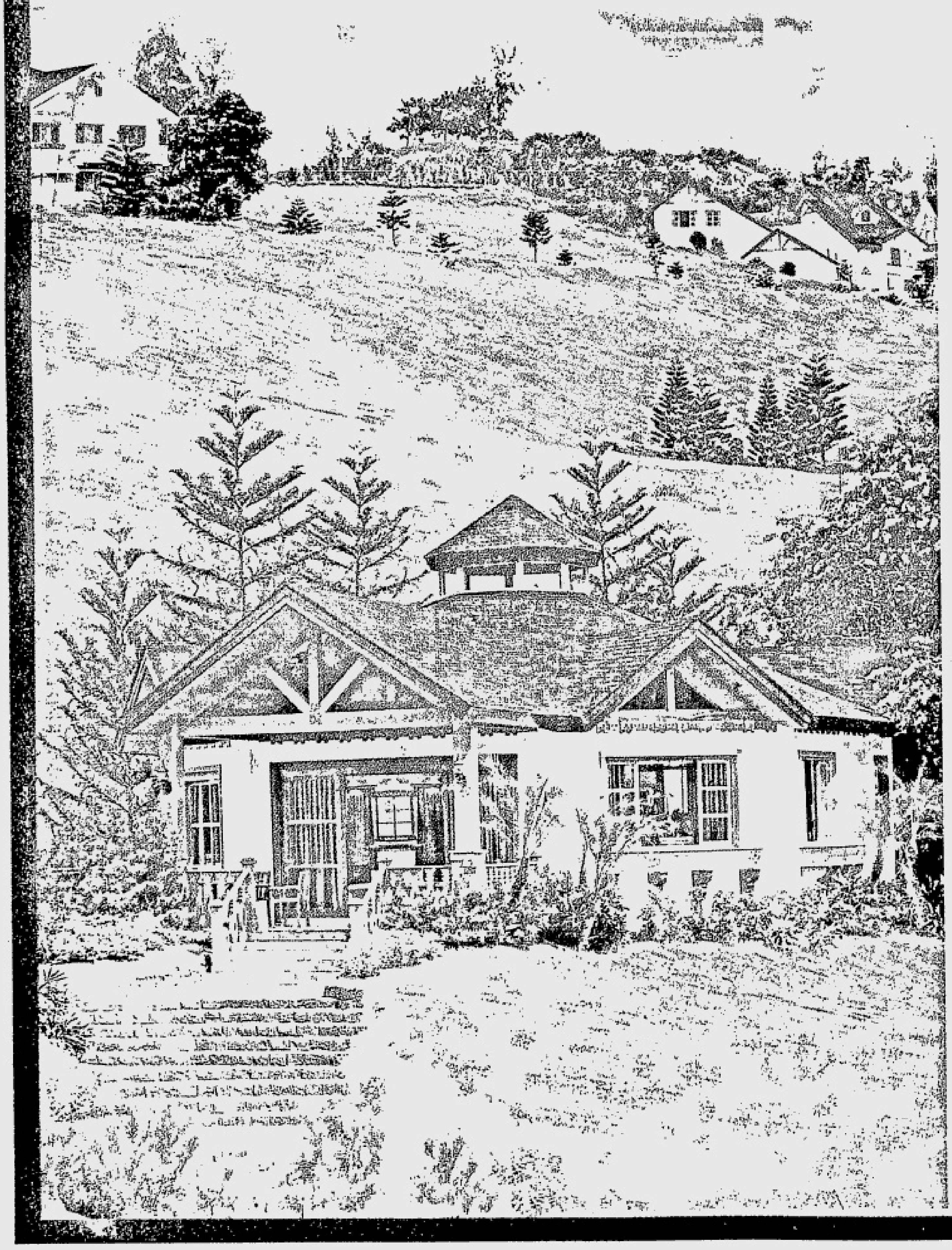
Beginning Feb. 6 to 29, GSC will feature 300 stalls dressed up in the finest Maranao decor - offering the widest array of affordable jewelry and fashion accessories, from beads to pearls, to silvers and golds. Plus, get a free ice cream treat when you shop with your date on Valentine's!

Charm your way to a loved one's heart at GSC, the Valentine shopping authority.

get free ice cream when you shop on Valentine's!

SHOPPING CENTER
ORTIGAS & COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

www.greenhills.com.ph



HOME SWISS HOME

At Crosswinds, you could have your very own little piece of Switzerland, whether it's land for a future home or a chalet you can live in right away.

The homes combine Swiss-inspired wood patterns, wide porches and overhanging eaves. The interiors feature a wide open space, perfect for family gatherings.

And the homes are set against gentle, rolling hills, surrounded by pine trees under a calm, quiet ambience.

It's a great life at Crosswinds--your home Swiss home.

To know more about Crosswinds, Tagaytay, call us at 850 6986 and 850 2868 or email us at mktg@brittany.com.ph. Or come over to Crosswinds and see what the Swiss life is all about.

TO MANILA
TO AMADEO
TO MENDEZ
TAGAYTAY CITY HALL
TAAL VISTA LODGE
ROTONDA
TO SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY VIA STA. ROSA
CROSSWINDS Tagaytay
PEOPLE'S PARK
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS
PICNIC GROVE

CROSSWINDS
Life is great

Brittany
CORPORATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ARCY Gayatin's take on the cheongsam

Shanghai chic

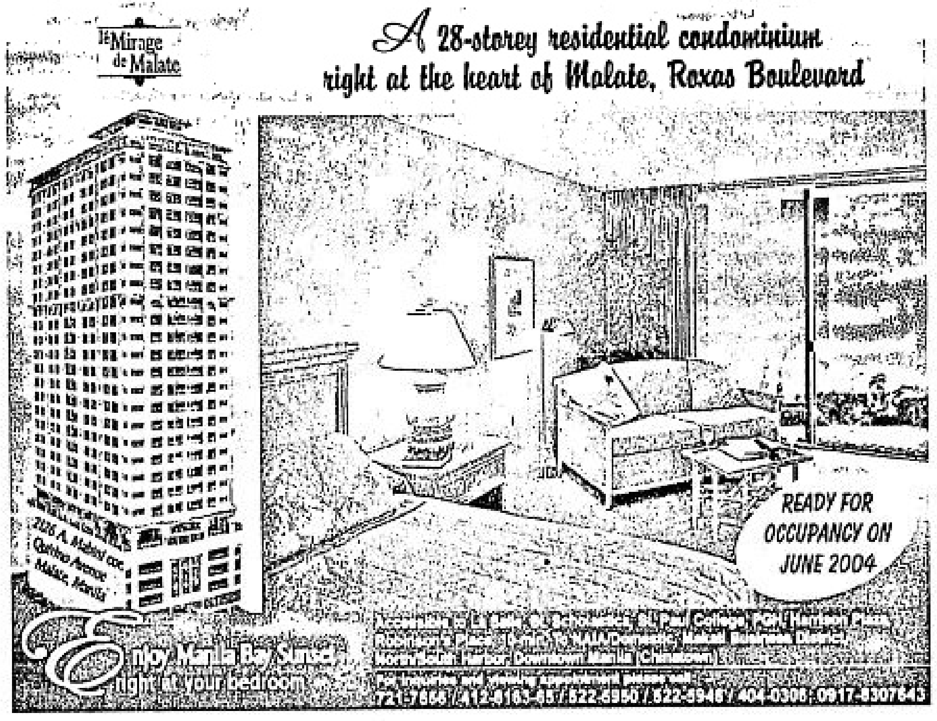
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan and Alex Van Hagen

AFTER THE TERNO, it's the cheongsam's turn to take the spotlight as the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines presented their takes on one of China's most popular costumes that once put Shanghai on the fashion map in the 1930s.

Billed as "Shanghai Divas: Rediscovering the Cheongsam," the recent fashion show at the NBC Tent was sponsored by HSBC, in cooperation with the Asia Society Philippine Foundation, to mark Chinese New Year.

Celebrations kicked off a week earlier at the Power Plant Mall with an exhibit that featured the 20

SHANGHAI/ D2



Le Mirage de Malate

A 28-storey residential condominium
right at the heart of Malate, Roxas Boulevard

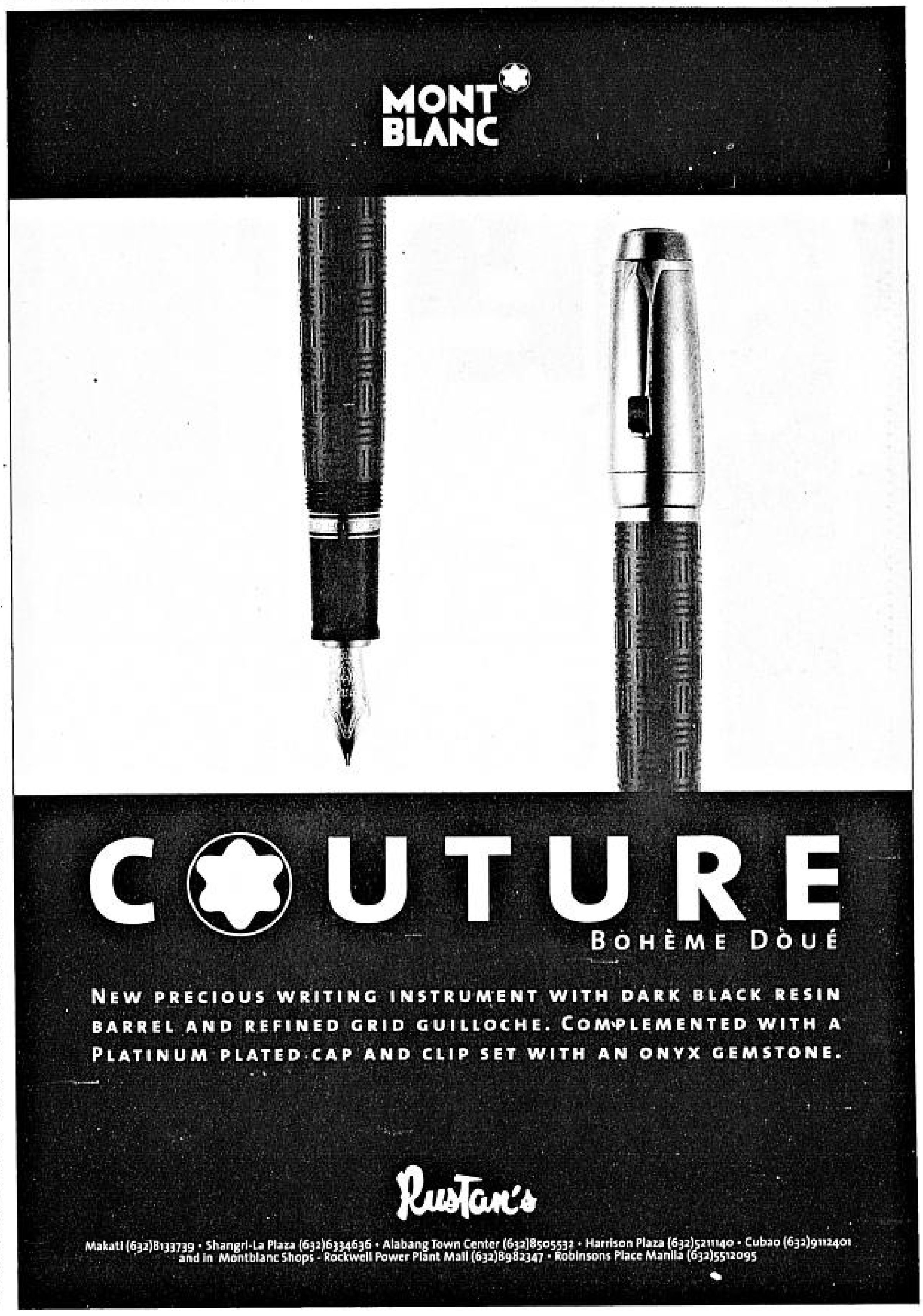
2126 A. Mabini cor. Quirino Avenue Malate, Manila

READY FOR OCCUPANCY ON JUNE 2004

Enjoy Manila Bay Sunset
right at your bedroom

[illegible] St. Paul College, PGH, Harrison Plaza, Robinson's Place [illegible] NAIA Domestic, Makati Business District, North/South Harbor, Downtown Manila (Chinatown)

For inquiries and viewing appointment please call:
721-7666 / 412-4163-65 / 522-6950 / 522-5948 / 404-0308 / 0917-8307643



MONT BLANC

COUTURE
BOHÈME DOUÉ

NEW PRECIOUS WRITING INSTRUMENT WITH DARK BLACK RESIN BARREL AND REFINED GRID GUILLOCHE. COMPLEMENTED WITH A PLATINUM PLATED CAP AND CLIP SET WITH AN ONYX GEMSTONE.

Rustan's

Makati (632)8133739 • Shangri-La Plaza (632)6334636 • Alabang Town Center (632)8505532 • Harrison Plaza (632)5211140 • Cubao (632)9112401
and in Montblanc Shops - Rockwell Power Plant Mall (632)8982347 • Robinsons Place Manila (632)5512095

Experience love at first sight
with exquisite gifts from the heart.

On Her: Dress by Tahari. Jewelry by Cartier Kiss of the Dragon and Shoes by Jimmy Choo. On Him: Shirt by Faconnable. Pants by Ermenegildo Zegna and Timepiece by Franck Muller

Be serenaded by the UP Manila Chorale on:

February 12, Shangri-La Plaza, 4 p.m.

February 13, Makati, 4 p.m.

February 14, Alabang, 4 p.m.

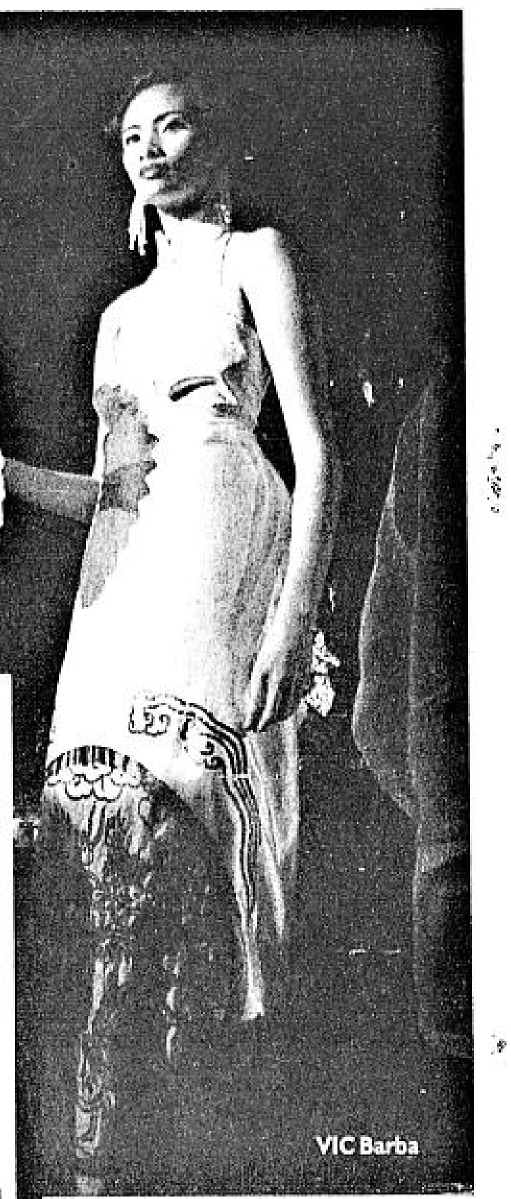
Passion Turns to Fashion at
Rustan's

MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • CUBAO • HARRISON PLAZA • ALABANG • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA • CEBU

RHETT Eala

MEL Vergel de Dios

JC Buendia



VIC Barba

GERRY Katigbak

Shanghai chic

The Fashion Design Council of the Philippines does some great monkey business with the cheongsam

From page D1

cheongsams as well as Chinese-inspired home décor, shoes and fashion accessories.

Hong Kong and Shanghai hold a special place in HSBC's history since the bank, as its name indicates, traces its roots there.

Speaking of history, most of the designers combined such disparate influences as traditional and contemporary, old and new, East and West in their pieces.

Several clothes even reminded us of such Oriental costumes as the *ao dai* from Vietnam and the *han bok* from Korea.

Many incorporated such tried-and-tested elements as slits, frogs and mandarin collars as well as shiny fabrics like silk and brocade. But by tweaking the cheongsam's traditional silhouette and combining them with contemporary materials such as beads, crystals, zippers and tulle, among others, not a few of the pieces stood out and looked trendy.

Red, gold and off-white were still the preferred shades. But several designers, notably Dennis Lustico, Jojie Lloren and Randy Ortiz, veered from traditional shades and silhouettes with their teal blue, sea green and turquoise numbers.

Lustico, for instance, fashioned an electric-pleated shift dress with a built-in poncho that echoed the skirt's uneven hem. Chinese influences were limited to the beaded collar and slit neckline.

Tailoring strength

In contrast to Lustico's flowing lines, Lloren capitalized on his strength in tailoring with a three-piece number: a brocade jacket and an inner blouse and pair of pants made of raw silk.

The mandarin-collared blouse, which doubled as a skirt, came with an ultra-long slit that started below the neck. Not only was the shiny blouse an ideal foil to the matte pieces, it also kept the revealing blouse in place.

Ortiz drew inspiration from the 1950s for his party dress, a silk number in turquoise and gold with layers of tulle for its petticoat.

The designer found at once a buyer for his creation several hours into the exhibit.

Patrice Ramos-Diaz, also known for her expertise in draping, opted for the structured look with a lemon yellow cheongsam with front and back aprons held together by lace-up strings.

Traditional doesn't necessarily mean boring, and the designer has proven this point by coming up with a sleek piece.

Jun Escario also went traditional with a semi-beaded red number made of stretched tulle with a pair of flowing sleeves that harked back to the 1970s.

The Cebu-based designer won the Red MasterCard Cheongsam of Choice for his Halston-meets-Crouching Tiger of a piece.

True to his roots as a clubwear designer, Avel Bacudio deliberately bucked tradition by coming up with a fresh number: a two-piece cheongsam made from various fabrics.

In lieu of frogs, Bacudio used zippers for his black top made up of swatches of brocade, Thai silk and Vietnamese silk.

The blouse's sleeves were angled in such a way that they protruded like sharp triangles. Bacudio further drew attention to these elements by patching them with multicolored pieces of brocade.

The A-line skirt was also pieced together using similar materials. This time, however, he chose fabrics in bold, contrasting shades. What a pretty sight!

Best pieces

In our book, Arcy Gayatin and Vittorio Barba, two designers with very different styles, came up with two of the evening's best pieces.

Ladies with less-than-perfect figures can heave a sigh of relief.

Instead of sticking to a column, Barba modified his cheongsam's silhouette—an empire-cut off-white creation with a pair of pointed flaps that framed the face.

Its wearer has to work on her upper body, however, as the sleeveless halter exposed plenty of skin—arms, shoulders and back. To add some sparkle to the skirt's dragon pattern, Barba had the edges embroidered with silver thread.

Indeed, Barba's crisp cheongsam exuded simplicity yet was far from boring.

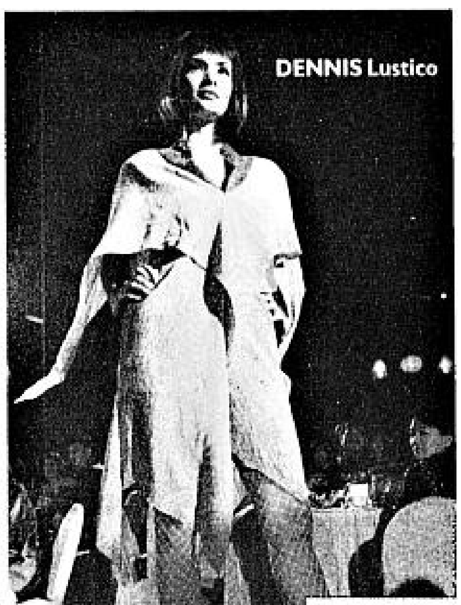
Gayatin used a single sheet of red lycra, which she draped directly on the model. The frogs and buckle were made from stainless wire that was also fashioned by hand.

Since everything was done by hand, said Gayatin, her body-hugging cheongsam was "seamless." And like most of the evening's elegant yet wearable pieces, it was fit for a 21st century diva.

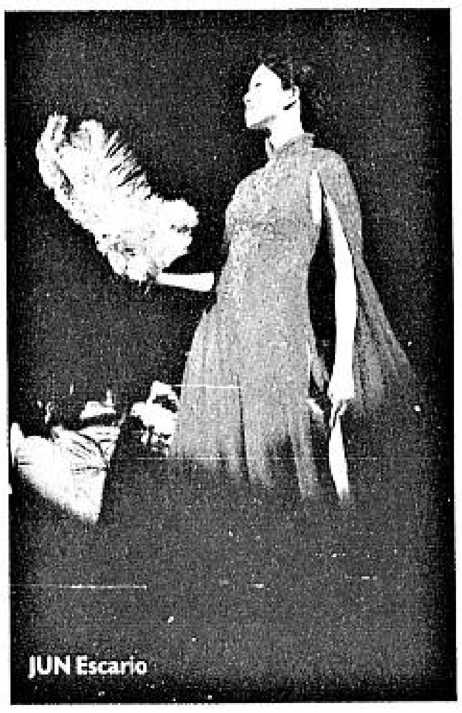
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ALEX Pigao

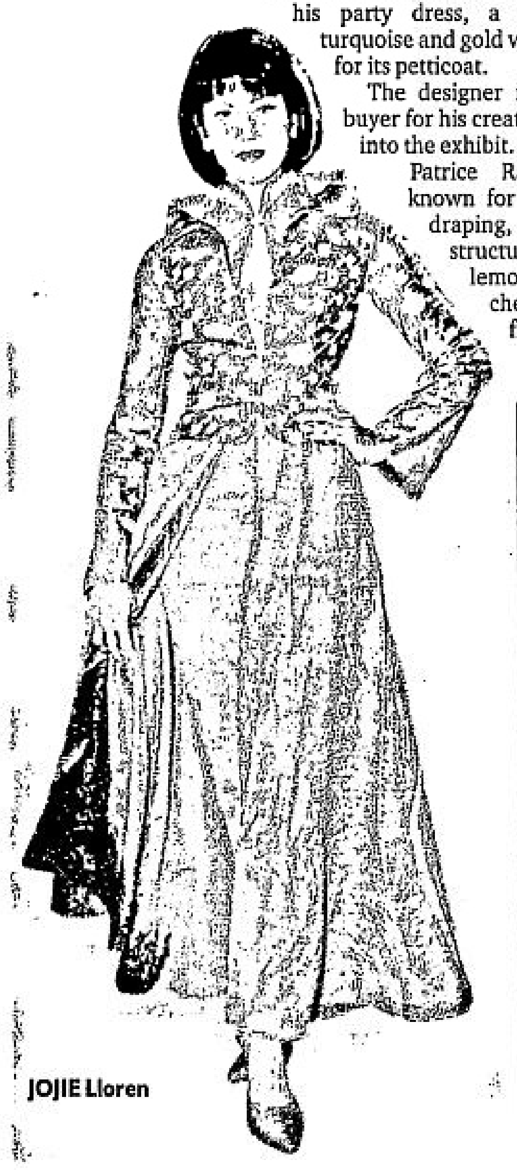
CK Peralta



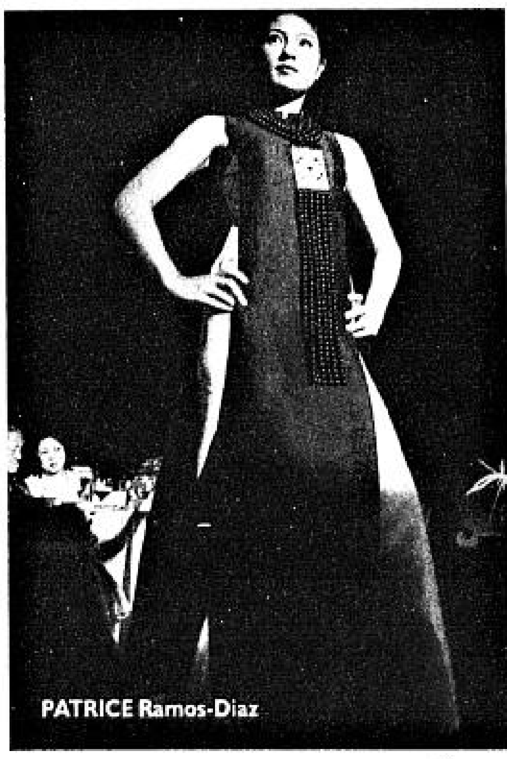
DENNIS Lustico



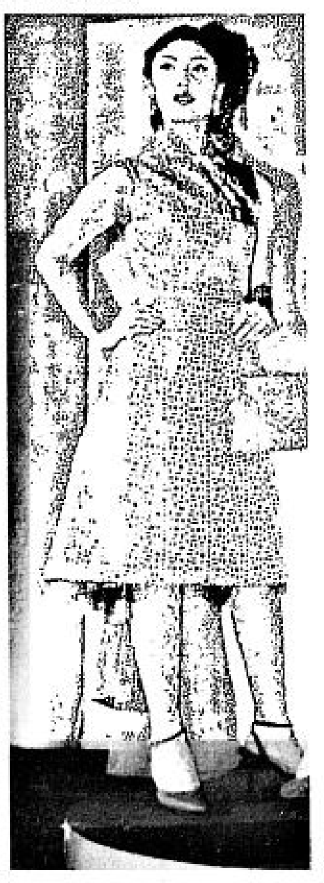
JUN Escario



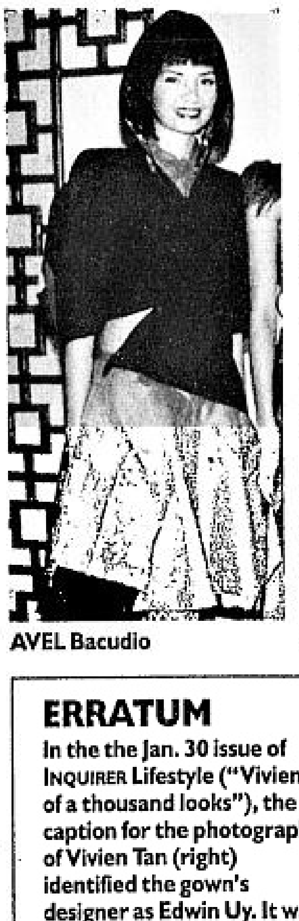
JOJIE Lloren



PATRICE Ramos-Diaz



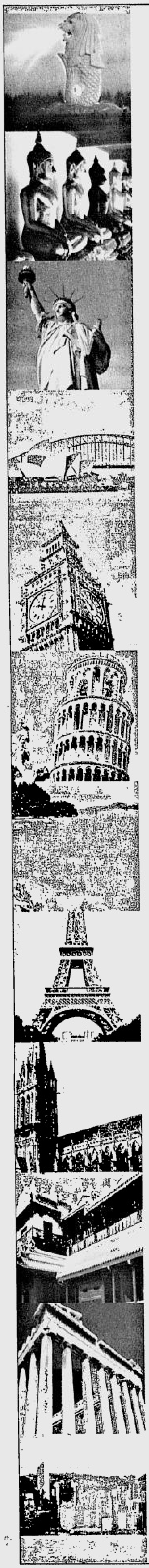
RANDY Ortiz



AVEL Bacudio

ERRATUM

In the the Jan. 30 issue of INQUIRER Lifestyle ("Vivien of a thousand looks"), the caption for the photograph of Vivien Tan (right) identified the gown's designer as Edwin Uy. It was Edwin Tan who did the gown. We apologize for the error.



Equitable
Travel Advantage

Travel light with Equitable Travel Card

Equitable PCI BANK
TravelCard
5456 1234 5678 9012
5456
MEMBER SINCE 04
VALID DATES MONTH/YEAR
MONTH/YEAR 02/04-01/06
RAMON DELA CRUZ
FOUNDING MEMBER
MasterCard

The new Equitable Travel Card gives you choice perks and benefits that soar above the rest.

1 Travel E-point per Php40 purchase
Only Equitable Travel Card lets you use the points you earn to travel any way you want-- whether by land, sea or air; with or without airfare; with or without hotel accommodations. Take your pick. Or choose from close to a hundred reward items like handsome luggage and the latest digital cameras representing a veritable wish list for seasoned travelers.

Free annual fee for 2 years - no joining fee, no service fee
It's so light on your pocket because it's absolutey FREE!

Peso and Dollar credit limits
Gives you added flexibility when paying your bills

... and a whole lot more!

Take off with the new and exciting Equitable Travel Card and discover for yourself why it's much more than your ordinary mileage card! Balance Transfer is also available.

STAR CRUISES
The Leading Cruise Line In Asia-Pacific

Apply now and enjoy 1,000 bonus Travel E-points instantly upon first usage of your Card. Or get an additional 1,000 bonus Travel E-points when you charge a minimum of Php200,000. Offer good from February 7 - August 7, 2004.

Plus, get a chance to win 1 of 3 trips onboard Star Cruises!

More perks are in store for cardholders, so what are you waiting for?

Equitable
CARD

MasterCard

APPLY NOW!
867-7977
www.equitablecard.com
1-800-1888-3264
(Domestic Toll-Free)

See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0139, Series of 2004.

Luxury brand's largest store to open in NY

LOUIS Vuitton, the world's leading luxury brand, kicks off its 150th anniversary year with the opening of the Louis Vuitton building on New York's 5th Avenue.

Scheduled to open on Feb. 10, the location is Vuitton's 316th store worldwide and its largest ever.

The four-level, 1,200-sq-m store, which for the moment is covered with a giant hoarding featuring LV's Fall/Winter 2003 heroine Jennifer Lopez, is notable for its exceptional architecture.

The glass façade was designed by Jun Aoki, who was also responsible for the Damier-inspired façade of the Vuitton store on Omotesando Avenue in Tokyo.

A Damier wall near the stairway goes all the way up to the top floor, while pieces of luggage float in space in a dynamic display, offering customers an unusual experience.

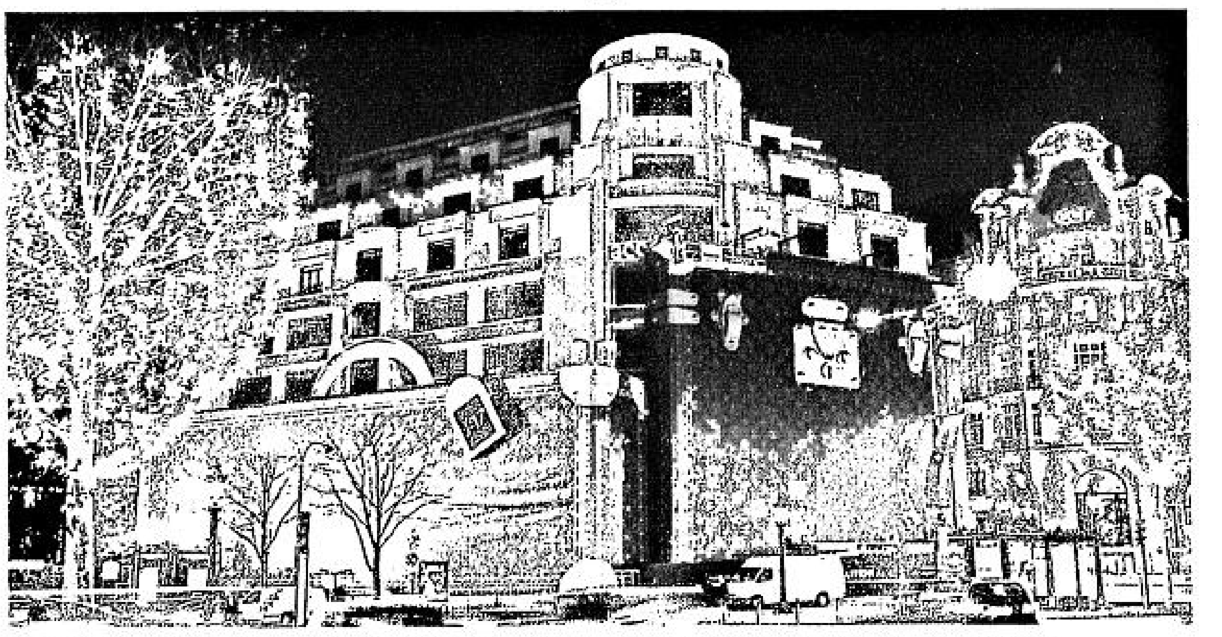
The opening of the New York store is a historic event for Louis Vuitton. Over a century ago, Vuitton began selling its trunks in New York through luxury department store owner John Wanamaker.

Vuitton's many customers came from all over the country to order personalized trunks to accompany them on their European voyages.

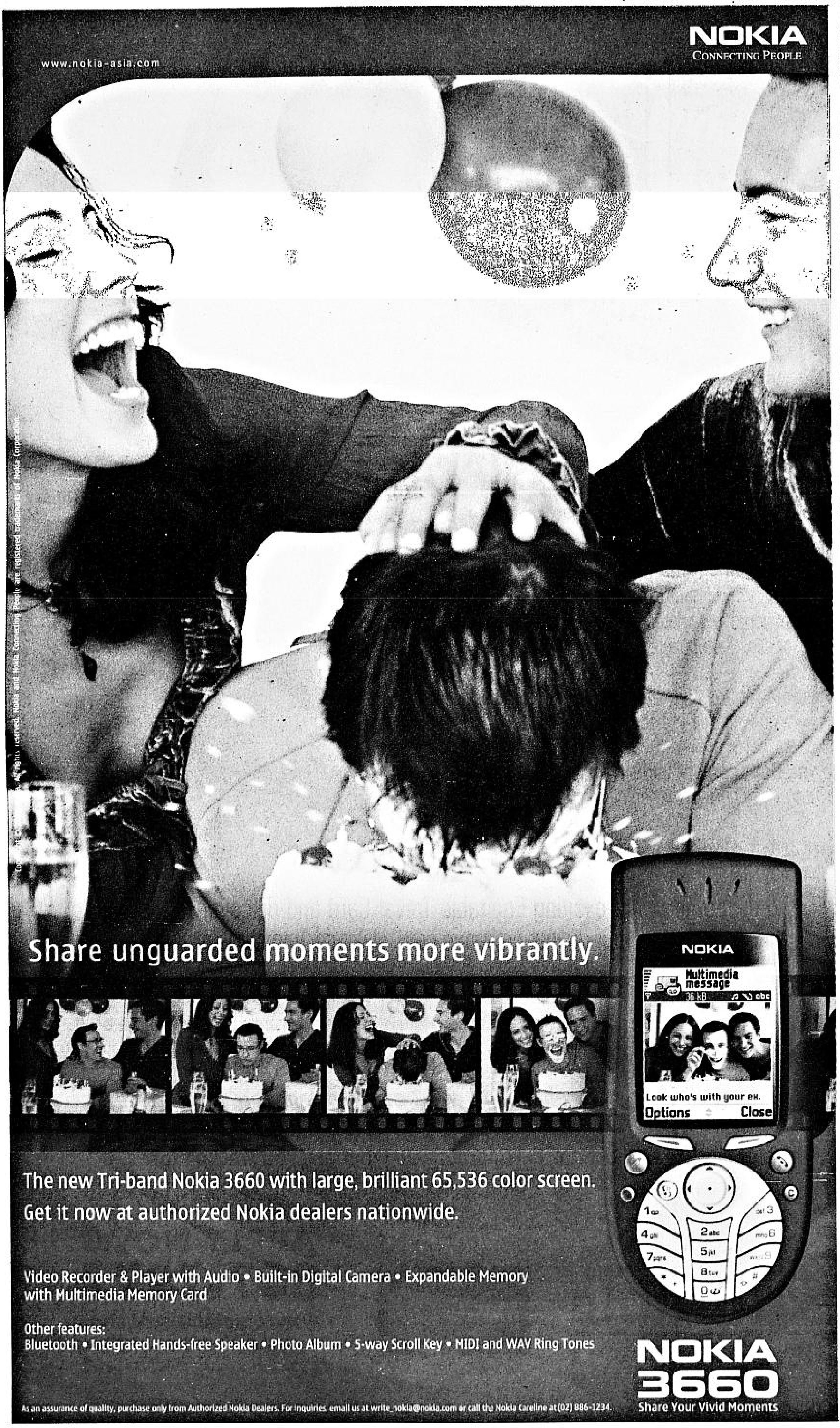
In 1980, Vuitton opened its first exclusive store in New York on 57th Street. Now, it is poised to inaugurate a whole new building just a few meters away from the original store, bringing the number of Vuitton stores in the United States to 85.

The New York store will sell the entire range of the brand's products: leather goods, luggage, women's and men's ready-to-wear, shoes, the Tambour watch line and fine jewelry. It will also accommodate special orders.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the G/L Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Visit the website at www.vuitton.com.



THE HOARDINGS covering Louis Vuitton's store façade feature a Monogram rigid suitcase and vanity case.



www.nokia-asia.com

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

rights reserved. Nokia and Nokia Connecting People are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation

Share unguarded moments more vibrantly.

The new Tri-band Nokia 3660 with large, brilliant 65,536 color screen.
Get it now at authorized Nokia dealers nationwide.

Video Recorder & Player with Audio • Built-in Digital Camera • Expandable Memory with Multimedia Memory Card

Other features:
Bluetooth • Integrated Hands-free Speaker • Photo Album • 5-way Scroll Key • MIDI and WAV Ring Tones

NOKIA
Multimedia message
36 kB
Look who's with your ex.
Options Close

NOKIA
3660
Share Your Vivid Moments

As an assurance of quality, purchase only from Authorized Nokia Dealers. For inquiries, email us at write_nokia@nokia.com or call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

Clothes for the romantic woman

ROMANTICISM blooms anew in Escada's latest offerings, with delicate layerings and flattering drapes that provide subtle hints of seduction and provocation.

Frock coats, generally without lapels, have ruffles or fringes. Georgette tops, blouses and dresses underline the vibrant, light feeling with gathers, waterfall drapes, drawstrings and smocking looks to match.

These clothes, with their striking prints, florals and frenzy of colors, emit a shimmering eroticism and define the ideal wear for midnight dinners and intimate encounters.

Escada boutiques are located at the 3/L of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, and at 6750 Ayala Avenue.

SUBTLY glam and seductive in Escada

Store offers retro wear

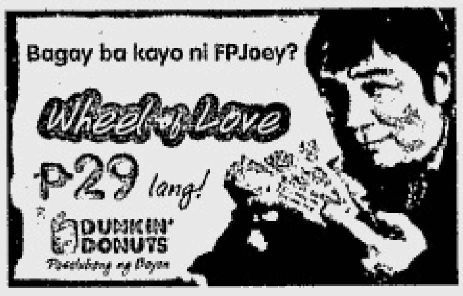
WEAR the clothes of the funky '80s, even the teeny weeny '60s. Babo has reinvented the micro minis of '60s fashion model Twiggy in its plaid A-line minis and black pleated micros with matching colored stockings.

You may also go mesh and less with sexy mesh sleeveless tops and revealing tank tops for the ultra-modern preppy punk look.

Visit Babo stores at HIP, 2/L Power Plant Mall; Greenhills Theater Mall; Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Metro East; Festival Mall; and Greenhills Arcade.

GET the preppy punk look at Babo.

k, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph


Bagay ba kayo ni FPJoey?
Wheel-n-Love
₱29 lang!
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Pasalubong ng Bayan

MFI'S SPACE kitchen showcase

Kitchen-perfect lifestyle

UK's top kitchen furniture maker seeks to bring the kitchen revolution to the Philippines

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

DO you go for home-cooked meals or order pizza or a bucket of fried chicken? Are you the type who loves to snack or do you treat meals, especially dinners, as sit-down affairs with kin and friends?

Your answers will determine the type of kitchen best suited for you and your family. And MFI, said to be the leading manufacturer and retailer of kitchen and bedroom furniture in the United Kingdom, aims to find the answers before it can recommend any of its 38 prefabricated kitchens.

MFI recently partnered with Federal Design Expo to exclusively market its products, which consist of kitchen cabinets, doors, handles, countertops and a number of sinks and faucets.

Fourteen of MFI's kitchen ranges or showcases are now on display at Federal's main showroom on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati. What's good about the partnership is it will also enable would-be users to "localize" their kitchens by integrating MFI's products with what's available at Federal, particularly its wide range of tiles.

"We're quite confident we can get a big chunk .of the growing high-rise market," said Jeffrey Ng, owner of Federal Design Expo.

MFI's cabinets may be prefabricated, but every component is measured and can be reconfigured to fit into your kitchen. It maintains prices at a competitive level by producing showcases in batches of 20,000 or more. And unlike the friendly neighborhood carpenter, its fully automated factory ensures the consistency and quality of every component.

More options

There's more to MFI products than kitchen cabinets. As the kitchen gains more importance among today's families, MFI has offered more options based on needs and lifestyles.

"Before selling them anything," said Mark Magee, MFI director for international operations, "we ask them first what happens in their kitchens."

If, for instance, you and your family order out a lot, then you won't need most of the cooking utensils that other families can't do without. This will affect the size and type of cabinets you'll use.

If you belong to a family who loves to stay in the kitchen to snack, then a breakfast bar with stools is an ideal option. Differences in the way people cook are also considered.

Cabinet doors with intricate niches, for instance, are more suited in Europe than in Asia. How come? Since Europeans do a lot of baking, they will find it easier to maintain such cabinets. Asians, however, are better off with plain, easy-to-clean doors as they prefer to sauté, fry, steam or broil their food. Otherwise, everything would have to be done in a so-called dirty kitchen like what most affluent Filipino families do.

"Because of the way most Asians cook," said Magee, "what they need is an adequate area for chopping. Europeans don't produce as much steam as Asians because most of the

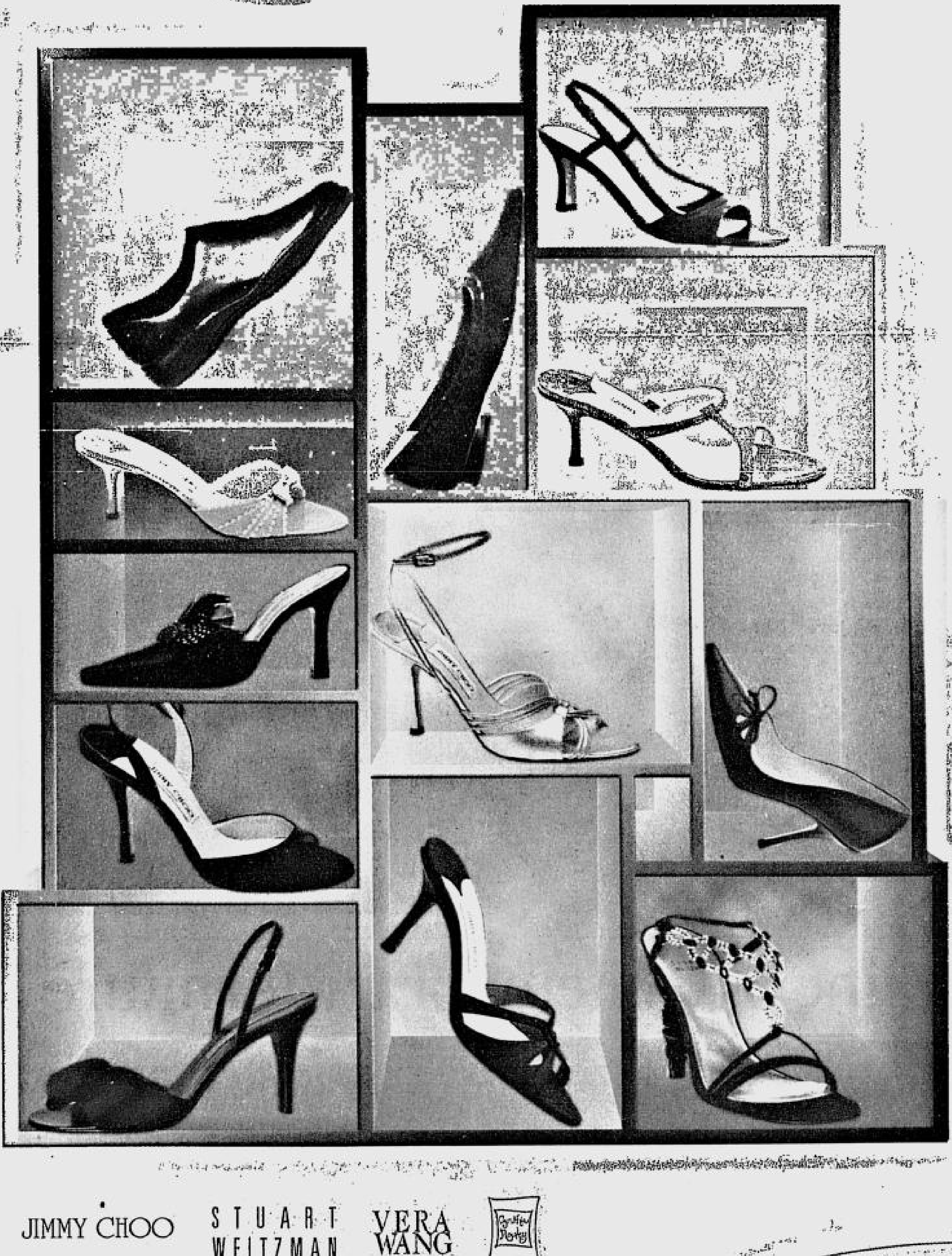
KITCHEN-PERFECT/ E2

onstage 2nyt

	MYMP HOURGLASS	PLS PRESENT THIS COUPON & GET 5% DISCOUNT ON CASH ONLY ☎ 671.[illegible]
Cowboy GRILL	Cowboy GRILL	Cowboy GRILL
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	FAT 16 CRO MAGNON	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	POWER SURGE PHRYGIAN	PERFECT STRANGERS OPEN FROM 6 PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	BEAT BOX HEADWORKS	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	KOOLJACKS EMMANUELLE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	FIRST SIGHT MYX JAM	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	VERSE 2 P R P	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	RHYTHM ACE SYMPOSIUM	NO ENTRANCE FEE

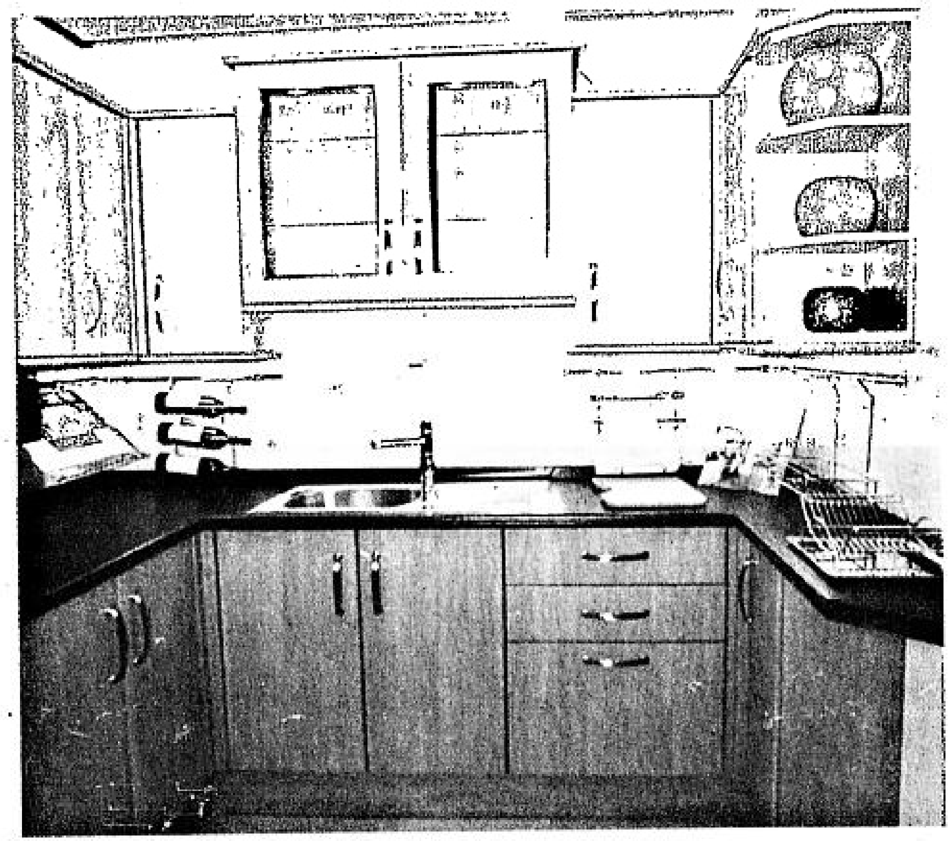
FEBRUARY 06 FRIDAY 438-3942

Step into... Luxury

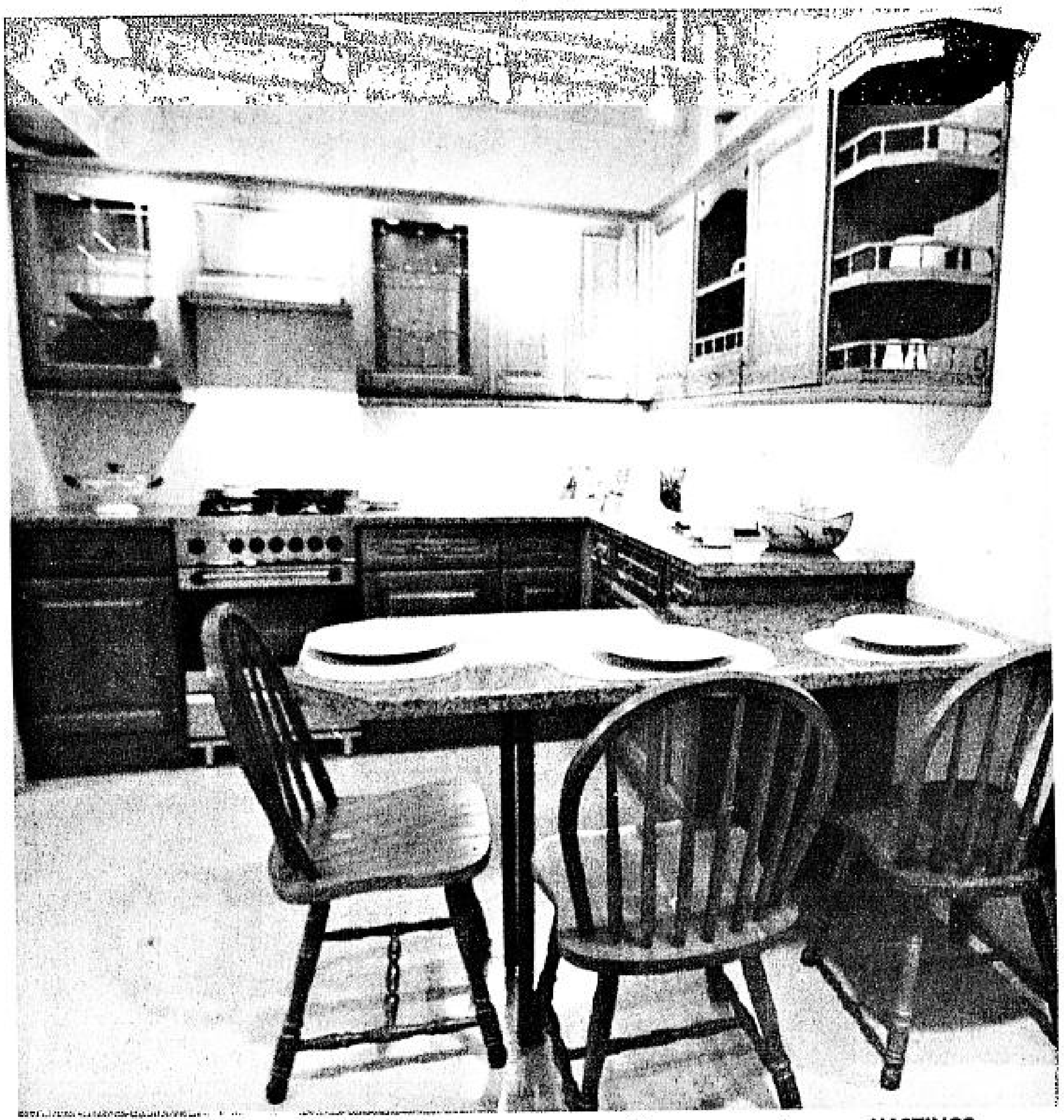


JIMMY CHOO
STUART WEITZMAN
VERA WANG
FOOTWEAR
ANTONIO BOSSI
nicole miller
franchi
notanonymous
nancy geist
sigerson morrison

NOW OPEN
at
Rustan's
DESIGNER SHOE SALON
2nd floor of Rustan's Dept. Store, Makati



RIMINI



HASTINGS

MADRID

COPENHAGEN

Kitchen-perfect lifestyle

From page E1

cooking is done in the oven."

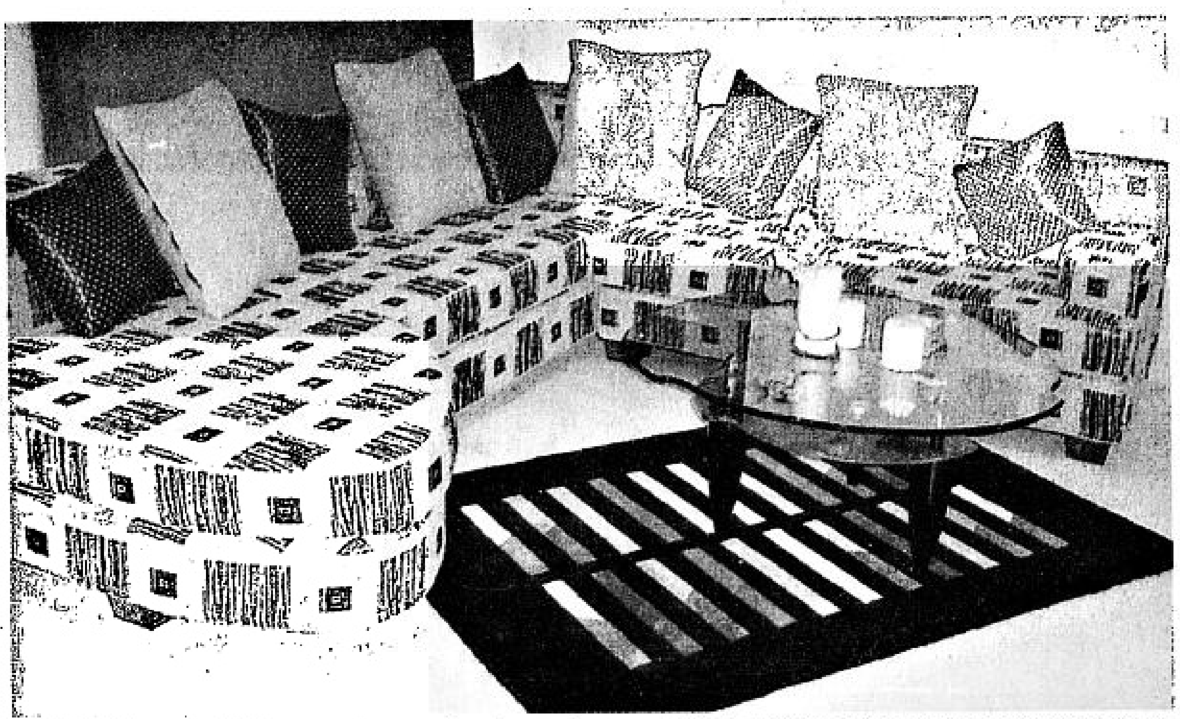
Over the decades, the kitchen has morphed from a purely functional area to a social area, which showcases the owners' sense of aesthetics. Although this trend started in Europe and North America, Asia hasn't been far behind as a growing number of families are paying more attention to how their kitchens look.

"Europeans are becoming less informal," said Magee. "Whereas people before led guests to the drawing room, which we now call the lounge, people today are now more comfortable taking them to other areas of the house. Rather than sit in the lounge, it's now common for friends to join the hosts in their kitchen." Talk is often juicier than the cooking.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

MFI director for international operations Mark Magee, Tessie Luz, British Ambassador Paul Dimond and MFI International GM Mark Curtis formally open MFI ranges at the Federal Design Expo.

New line of contemporary furniture



ENZO is a lounge sofa that comes in moss green, bronze brown and silver gray. It has nine accompanying plumped-up throw pillows. Center tables in wood or crystal can easily match this sofa design, making for an elegant and comfortable living area.

WHEN shopping for contemporary pieces, you cannot go wrong with Play & Display, which is introducing a new line of sofas and wall systems this month.

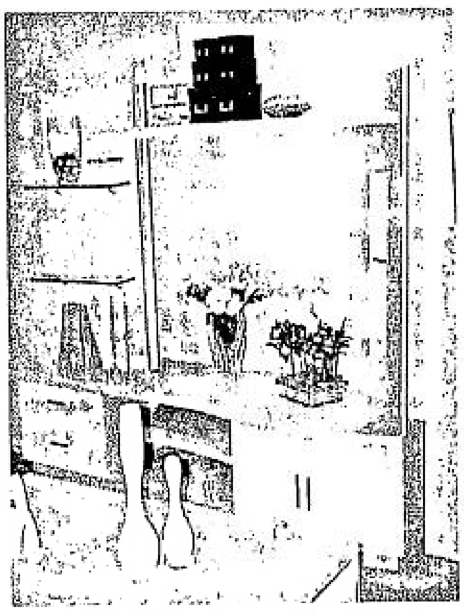
For those who double up their living area as a family room, there is the new wall system composed of Tropica, Boheme and Bali. It comes with a remote control for lighting.

Tropica can accommodate a large TV set (38x54x43 inches), and a DVD or VCD. It has cabinets and shelves made of glass and wooden doors. It comes in white beech and dark walnut colors.

Boheme is also available in white beech and dark walnut. Similar to Tropica, it can house a large TV set and corresponding accessory. Its upper portion consists of open glass shelves. Below are a cabinet, drawers and shelves.

Bali, on the other hand, is suitable for big entertainment systems. It has a two-layered platform and lighted backing. It comes in white beech and dark walnut.

The new fabric sofas are Enzo, Kimoto and Mizoni. Enzo is a lounge sofa that comes in moss green, bronze brown and silver gray. It has nine throw pillows. Several center tables, wooden or crystal, can match the design.



BOHEME, which can house a large TV set and corresponding accessories, has open glass shelves, a cabinet and drawers.

Kimoto consists of a three-seater, two-seater and one-seater, available in dark green, dark brown and silver fabrics with wooden legs.

Mizoni is also made up of a three-seater, two-seater and one-seater with wooden legs. It has a more elaborate design and comes in brown and silver.

Visit to a secret forest

AT FIRST glance, Barangay Bankod in Indang, Cavite, looks like most progressive communities in the country. It has paved roads, neat rows of sturdy houses, a commercial center, a barangay hall where members meet to discuss concerns of the day and, for extra status, the Cavite State University as neighbor.

But there's something more to Barangay Bankod than meets the eye. Its "backyard" is a forest, where trees and undergrowth grow in wild abandon and which often lead, though there are no real pathways, to rivers and streams, hardly visible except for the gush of water from a mini waterfall several feet below.

With a water crisis looming in Manila and environs, one can only rejoice with Indang residents for their good fortune of having clean water sources right at their doorstep.

THE PHILIPPINE palm civet thrives symbiotically with the arengga pinnata trees in the forest of Indang, Cavite.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Hidden as well are the Philippine palm civet (not the species said to cause SARS or severe acute respiratory syndrome in China) and the giant cloud rat that make this forest their common habitat.

Farmers say the animals prefer to stay invisible when people are around and go out only at night. They have found, too, that there is a symbiotic relationship between the civets and the trees. The civet feeds on the arengga and its droppings help in seed propagation.

Unexpected discovery

We learn of this hidden forest through a visit to the homes of barangay officials. A house may be fronting a street, but stroll toward its rear and you come face-to-face with an honest-to-goodness forest!

The reason we visited these homes was because we accompanied Penny Reyes Velasco, author of the children's environmental book "Are You The Forest King?". She is part of the Arengga Pinnata Conservation Initiative (APCI).

The first steps to conservation, Velasco says, is to practice garbage segregation and materials recovery (recycling), which should be done scientifically. First, the officials should do it, then the community folk. It is learning by following the leaders.

Penny was in Indang to see how well Bankod was faring, and happy to realize it was faring very well indeed...

The discovery of the forest was a bonus in my visit, which was actually to see the workings of the Arengga Pinnata Conservation Initiative (APCI), one of the projects that the internationally awarded Happy Earth Organization (of which Penny Velasco, a Caviteña herself, is founder), was pursuing.

The APCI aims to institutionalize sustainable development in the town's agricultural production, especially the arengga palm which has become a source of livelihood as well as community pride. The sugar palm produces two important products for people of Indang: vinegar and *kaong* (called "irok" by Caviteños).

Penny happens to be related to the people behind Bote Central, bottlers of arengga vinegar based in Indang. The connection only heightens the desire to make the whole project succeed. Farmers, community folk and those in the vinegar and *kaong* industry are all stakeholders, so there is every reason for them to cooperate and make the project work well. To see a rural community work together in harmony and efficiency is heartening and one wishes this is so everywhere else.

Mysterious soot

Farmers in Bankod have their problems, too, however. Like the soot that has begun to appear on leaves of trees, especially bananas, in their forest. They believe it comes from emissions of the incinerator located at nearby Trece Martires City.

They had made representations with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources about this. The department issued a cease and desist order on incinerator operations but farmers say it is not being implemented and the emissions continue.

So far, the arengga palms have not been affected so periodic extraction and harvesting of vinegar and *kaong* go on.

As yet, vinegar manufacture and *kaong* extraction are comparatively small in scale. But there is every indication that they could turn into world-class industries. Their success is success for the entire country.

Credit must be given where it is due, and no group is more deserving of acknowledgement than the officials of Barangay Bankod, all of them eager learners and efficient leaders. They are: Domingo "Deng" Abestado, barangay captain; Concepcion Jeciel, secretary; and *kagawad* Juanito Escobido, Felix Flores, Leticia Garcia, Pedro Arenas, Estelita Molina and Andres Ocampo.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

> Indang residents have the good fortune of having clean water sources at their doorstep

BK Ham & Cheese Sandwich™
Mag-BK na Kayang-kaya!
BK Chicken Teriyaki Rice Bowl™
BK Blazing Burger™
BK Savers
Kayang-Kaya Combo Meals
as low as ₱25
BK Spaghetti™
BK Beef Steak Rice Bowl™
BURGER KING
It just tastes better

Foreign judges invited to bonsai competition

THE PHILIPPINE Bonsai Society Inc. (PBSI) is holding the first National Bonsai Open Exhibit and Competition Mar. 3-7, grand atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shaw Blvd. corner Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

The event is being held in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Corporation.

Leading bonsai artists and collectors will exhibit their work and compete for top prizes.

Judges are bonsai masters Li Tong Hong and Professor Amy Liang from Taiwan, Suzumo Nakamura from Japan, and Filipino artist Bencab.

There will be a "critique hour" to be conducted by masters for the top 20 winning bonsai entries. In the critique hour, the tow masters will discuss and analyze the winning points of the 20 entries.

Bonsai masters Li and Nakamura, with Filipino experts, will give free lectures and demonstrations.

Formally opening the event on Mar. 3 are Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr., former Philippine First Lady Amelita M. Ramos, Shangri-La Properties Corp. president Tom C. Zita, and Amy Liang.

Bonsai plant materials, tools, pots, accessories, books, potting media and other gardening-related materials will also be sold at highly discounted prices.

Heading the show's working committees are headed by Willi Hahn, PBSI president; Felicidad S. Gupit, overall chair; Willi Ortiz, ways and means; Bobby Gopiao, finance; Dorie S. Bernabe, hospitality and socials, assisted by Bambi Mendoza, Betty Lizan and Dr. Oding Reyes; Vic Ceballos and Rene Valino, lectures and demonstrations; David Du, judging; PJ Nepomuceno, commercial exhibits; Katherine King, Chat Alejandro and Fely Gupit, publicity; and Rene Reyes, security.

Admission is free.

PBSI officers Dorie Bernabe, Fely Gupit, Yumie Gupit (seated); Vic Ceballos, Willie Ortiz, Bobby Gopiao, PJ Nepomuceno, Rene Reyes, Willi Hahn, Oding Reyes and Teddy Lim (standing)

World-class steam sauna technology

TEUCO of Italy is at the forefront of steam sauna technology today, with over 30 years' experience in design, technological innovations and manufacturing know-how.

The steam sauna involves enveloping the body in vapor that is both hot and humid. For a steam sauna to be effective, the temperature must be uniformly distributed inside the cabin. Only in this way can all the parts of the body derive the same beneficial effects.

This is where Teuco technology comes into play—by constantly maintaining the correct temperature and humidity of the cabin from head to foot.

The combined action of steam and heat stimulates the blood and lymph circulation. The heavy perspiration induced allows the body to free itself of toxins and undesirable metabolic residues. In addition, prolonged exposure to moist heat frees the airways and is undoubtedly a great help in curing classic disorders of the respiratory system. A steam bath also benefits the skin, expelling impurities and removing dead cells to leave smooth, relaxing and glowing.

Since 1996, Dexterton Corp. has successfully supplied Teuco whirlpools and steam saunas to choice high-end customers in the Philippines. Call 3621111 or 3616006.

furniture
SAVE 1,500 ALBERT NOW 5,495 Before 6,995
SAVE 1,500 ANTONIO NOW 5,995 Before 7,495
SAVE 800 MARIE NOW 3,195 Before 3,995
sit a little closer
save big on loveseats
get a chance to win a jeshley entertainment center
february 6 - 29, 2004
SAVE 800 SHANE NOW 3,195 Before 3,995
SAVE 1,100 SANDY NOW 4,195 Before 5,295
SAVE 1,200 SIGOURNEY NOW 4,295 Before 5,495
SM HOME WORLD
We've got it all for you!
Furniture items available at Home Center Makati / Cubao / North Edsa / Ortigas / Las Pinas / Manila / Bicutan / Cebu / Mandurriao / Davao
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0280 Series of 2004

Inexpensive home makeover

GIVE your home an inexpensive makeover by adding a new color or an accent here and there. Handyman and Handyman Do it Best have a wide array of products to help give your home a fresh, new look.

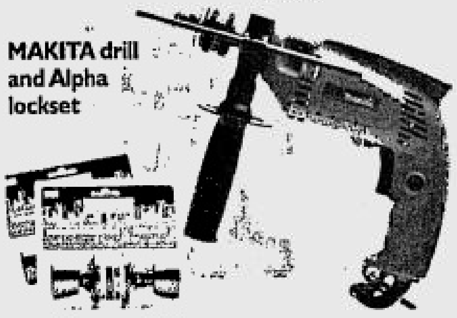
With 40 stores in Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and other shopping centers nationwide, Handyman and Handyman Do it Best offer a wide variety of paints, wallpaper, decorative pieces, etc.

Here are some ideas for perking up your home:

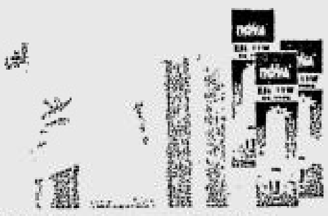
Check out cabinets, tables and table tops that might need a fresh coat of paint or varnish. Use wallpaper not just to brighten up your place, but also to cover cracks on walls as well.

Change the tiles of your kitchen or bathroom. Add accents like lamps and plants. Rearrange your furniture for a new ambiance.

SILKY decor wallpaper and decorative vinyl



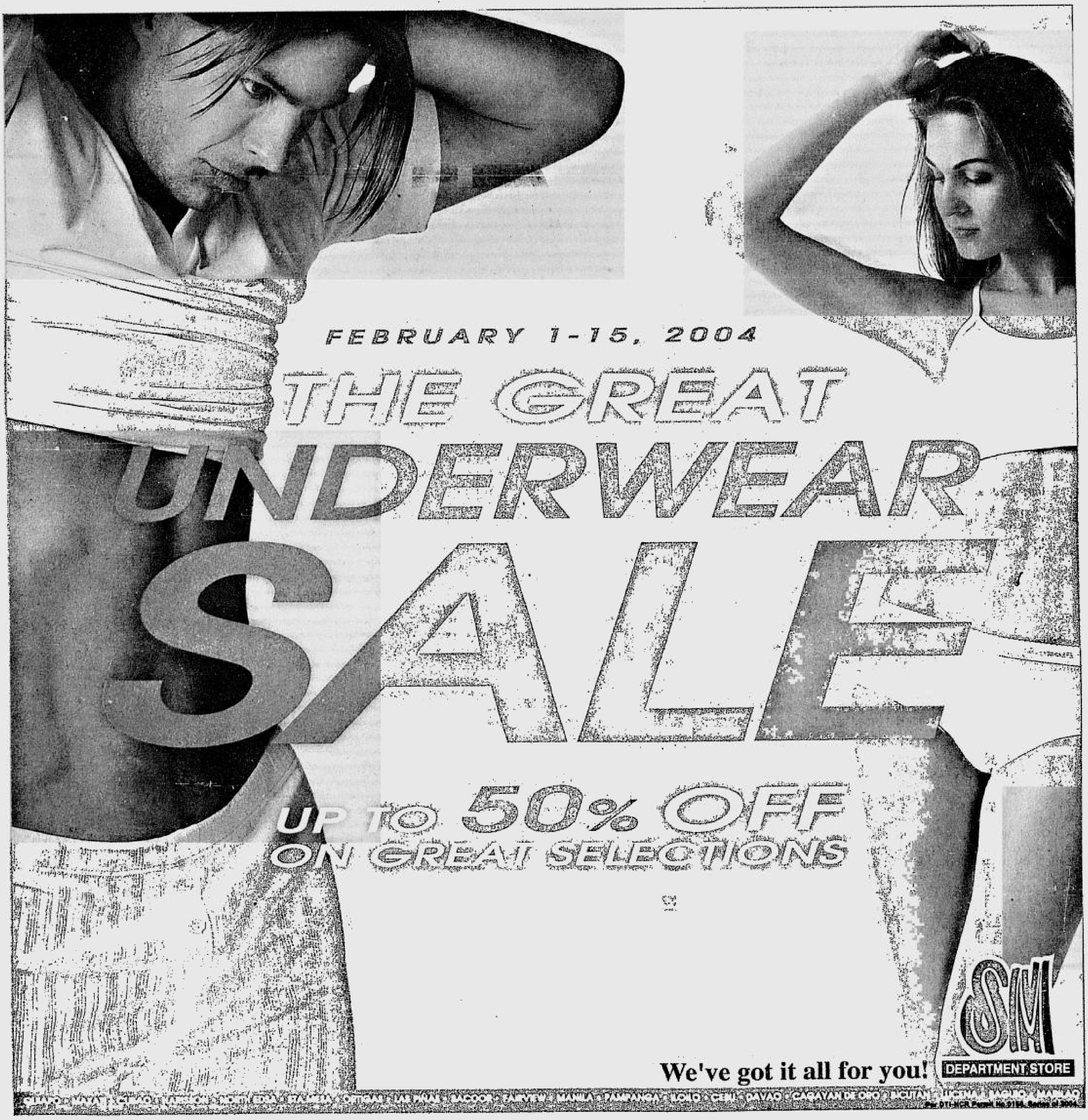
MAKITA drill and Alpha lockset



DECORATIVE ceiling lamp and energy saving lamp

FREE JOLLY HANDY BAG
for every P400 delivery purchase
also available in black
(Contents not included)
DIAL 8-7000
Jollibee Delivery
Promo Period: Jan. 1-Feb.15,2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3753 Series of 2003
8-7000 is available in Metro Manila only.
For provincial areas, call your nearest Jollibee Delivery Store

Pink Patio
BORACAY
Love on the Rocks
It's really just a game.
We challenge the two of you to climb together.
For the best among our guests, we've prepared
special gifts for you to bring home.
The weekend of February 13, 14 & 15
promises you the
Valentine vacation
of your dreams.
Book your Valentine Weekend and get a free bottle of wine, Pinko Bear stuffed toy, and free registration fee for wall-climbing competition!
(Twin Sharing Php 4,999/person)
12/F MBCentre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200 • Tel. 8452772 to 27 • Fax 8452233 • Email sales@pinkpatio.com • Website www.pinkpatio.com

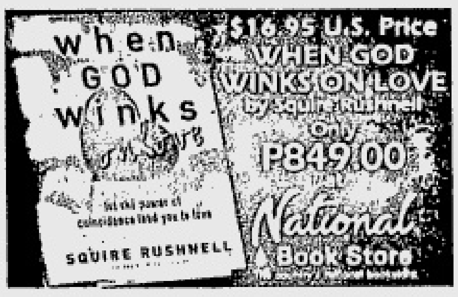


FEBRUARY 1-15, 2004
THE GREAT UNDERWEAR SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
ON GREAT SELECTIONS
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO · MAKATI · CUBAO · HARRISON · NORTH EDSA · STA. MESA · ORTIGAS · LAS PIÑAS · BACOOR · FAIRVIEW · MANILA · PAMPANGA · ILOILO · CEBU · DAVAO · CAGAYAN DE ORO · BICUTAN · LUCENA · BAGUIO · MARILAO
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0156, Series of 2004

Trend Spotting

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



$16.95 U.S. Price
WHEN GOD WINKS ON LOVE
by Squire Rushnell
Only
P849.00
National Book Store

Corporate and office savvy chic

The Black Shop helps the career woman remain on top of the corporate ladder

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

BELTED striped shirt (P999) and white skirt (P949)

WOMEN all over have proven their mettle in fields where men used to lord over. In the corporate world, for instance, women have shown that if given the same opportunities, they, too, can reach the top of the heap. Definitely they look better in high heels while toting a briefcase.

Every successful female executive knows the psychology of dressing the part. She knows she doesn't have to dress up like her male counterparts to be taken seriously. Drab suits and dull white shirts day in and day out are men's territory alone—and should be kept that way.

The key to closing the wardrobe deal is a woman's ability to strike a balance between professional polish and stylish ease. While abiding with the corporate dress code, she knows she can assert her authority and express her wisdom without undermining her femininity.

It pays to have the basics: the crisp white shirt, the flattering black skirt and pants, the perfectly tailored jacket and pantsuit, the little black dress and a twin set. These are timeless pieces that transcend trends, and can be dressed up or down time and again with choice accessories.

From there, she can build a wardrobe

CORPORATE/ F3

Paces English Language Center
Creating the standard Setting the pace

COURSE OFFERING

ENGLISH AS A SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
- *Intensive Grammar* • *Strategic Reading & Vocabulary Development*
- *Oral Communication* • *Writing Skills*

ACADEMIC READING & WRITING PROGRAMS

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES PROGRAMS
- *English for Secretaries* • *English for Tourism* • *English for Business*
- *English for Engineers* • *English for Law Students*
- *Advanced Conversational English* • *Comprehensive Grammar Review*

TEST PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Review classes for
TOEFL • *TOEIC* • *IELTS* • *TSE*

PACES ESCOLTA
2/F AIC Center Escolta, Manila, Philippines 1006
Contact Nos. 247-3299 / 247-3316
Telefax (632)247-3340

PACES MAKATI
2/F Lising Building,
2301 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Contact Nos. 817-0919 / 817-8576 / 817-6878

Other Branches : Ortigas - Greenhills - Katipunan

this WEEK @ SM SUPERMALLS

VIVA presents
Mark BAUTISTA

FEB 6 • 4pm
Entertainment Plaza, LGF
SM City NORTH EDSA

FEB 7 • 4pm
Entertainment Plaza, 5/F
SM City MANILA

FASHION INSTITUTE of the Philippines

...the fastest and less expensive way to a fashion career.

Paris-trained designer
Shanon Pamaong
conducts international
standard training in
Pattern Making,
Fashion Design
& Sewing

Tel: 635-5383
Cell: 0919-488-0869

Cityland Shaw Tower
Shaw Blvd., Mand.
Beside Shangrila Plaza Mall

SWIPE YOUR WAY TO FREE ₱1,000!

Simply use
BDO MasterCard
and get up to
₱1,000 cash credits

"Your Everything, Everywhere Card!"

PROMO MECHANICS:

[1] Promo Period is from December 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. [2] Cardholders must use their BDO MasterCard during the promo period and accumulate a spending of at least P5,000 to qualify for the first P500 Big Spender Rebate. [3] Accumulated spending of P10,000 or more during the promo period will entitle the cardholder to the second P500 rebate. [4] If a cardholder posts a total spending of P10,000 or more in one Statement of Account (SOA), he/she will be entitled to a one-time P1,000 Big Spender Rebate. [5] Cash advance transactions and other BDO Card-initiated fees and charges are not included. [6] The rebate will be credited and posted to the account after two statement cycles, from the time the required spending amount was reached. [7] Account must be in active and current status at the time of rebate crediting. [8] The maximum total rebate amount is P1,000. [9] Should an account turn past due for two consecutive months, the rebate entitlement will be forfeited. [10] This promo offer is non-transferable and not convertible to cash.

PROMO PERIOD: Dec. 1, 2003 to Mar. 31, 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3531, Series of 2003

Apply now! Visit your nearest Banco de Oro branch.
Initially available in the Greater Metro Manila Area, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Rizal, and Laguna only.
For inquiries, please call 631-8000 (within Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-Free)
LOW, LOW INTEREST RATES • FREE MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE FIRST YEAR

BDO UNIBANK
BDO CARD
A subsidiary of Banco de Oro Universal Bank

BANCO DE ORO

Japan's Latest Craze!!!

Get **FIRMER** and **ENLARGED** Breasts the
100% Natural Way!

- ✗ No Surgery
- ✗ No Injections
- ✗ No Medication
- ✗ No Side-Effects
- ✓ 100% Effective

Introductory Price
P 3500
CALL us NOW!!!

OVER A HUNDRED SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

NATIONWIDE DEALERS ARE WELCOME.

For further details, please call us or visit us:
Athena Body & Beauty Products
41 Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Office Hours: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm • Tel. Nos. 374-7011 to 13

Valentine Fun on Ice!

Free souvenir photo on ice
plus get a chance to win
a Dinner & Movie Date for Two
for every two regular tickets purchased

FEBRUARY 6-22, 2004
not valid with other promos

SM Ice Skating Rink
MEGAMALL • SOUTHMALL

YKL
FUJIFILM

Cut & present this ad for additional 1 Hour Ice Skating Time.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0177 Series of 2004

PHILIPPINE Tatler managing director Irene Francisco, Ambassador Benny Tantoco and his daughter, Nedy Tantoco

THE GANG: Super couple Mari and Le Lagdameo with Carla Reyes Tengco, Sigalit Djemal and witty watch collector Al Tengco

PAOLO Martel, Cristina Villanueva, Dr. Randy Francisco and Irene Martel Francisco with Mely and Paing Hechanova

Cosmo Manille takes its own sweet time

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

IF you've been to one book launch, you've been to them all, right? Wrong, *palanggas*, not when the launch is organized by the chi-chi Philippine Tatler, the country's arbiter of high society and good taste.

The mag unveiled the company's latest project, "The World of Time," the first-ever coffee table book of its kind in the Philippines. The special volume highlights the histories, the classics and the latest models, and the creative geniuses behind some of the world's most esteemed name-droppable watch brands. The creamiest of the cream of Cosmo Manille's *alta sociedad* and the true watch connoisseurs and collectors, were all *tres* visible at the Grand Ballroom of the elegant Mandarin Oriental Manila.

The doors opened promptly at 6 p.m. and in the bat of an eyelash, the ballroom was sizzling with the chic and famous, excitingly anticipating a look-see of the book.

As a teaser, *palanggas*, the ballroom was lined with large banners of the participating prestigious brands and their representatives such as Audemars Piguet, Breitling, **Mario Katigbak** of Bulgari, Philippe Charriol, **Vanessa Lim** of Chopard, Façonnable, Frank Muler, **Vivenne Chua** of Maurice Lacroix, Mont Blanc, Oris, Piaget, Hatch Cruz of Tag Heuer, **Raffy Florendo** of Technomarine, and **Vacheron Constantin** and **Emerson Yao** of the Lucerne group.

The inimitable **Johnny Litton** and *moi*, Tatler's social editor, started the evening's program with the usual doses of humor and witty banter. Stage actress and chanteuse, the fabulous **Menchu Lauchengco**, had us all swooning with her fantastic voice and a medley of songs that had "time" as theme.

Besides the entertainment, three prestigious watches were raffled off. The lucky ones were **Bing Rodriguez**, who won a diamond-studded Philippe Charriol; **Edith Dichao** who got a Façonnable; and young southern beauty **Alana Montelibano** who took home a gorgeous Maurice Lacroix, no less.

While all this was going on, the banquet staff of the Mandarin went around with endless trays of yummy hors d'oeuvres and canapes to feast upon, washed down, naturellement, with red and white wines from Bacchus Wines International and a stream of the best vodka and dry martini, with double olive. So very Manhattan, *palanggas*.

Philippine Tatler managing director **Irene Martel Francisco** and editor in chief **Anton San Diego** were endlessly welcoming social and economic pillars such as **Chito Madrigal Collantes**, **Washington Sycip**, Ambassador **Jesus Tambunting**, German Ambassador **Herbert Jess**, Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco** with his daughters **Nedy Tantoco** and **Marilen Valbuena**. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's *charmant* **Warner Manning**, and diehard watch collector **Al Tengco** with his wife, **Carla Reyes Tengco.**

Mely and **Paing Hechanova** chatted with **Maritess Pineda,** and vivacious **Evelyn Lim Forbes** till way past the time to go home, *palanggas*.

Bank of the Philippine Islands' **Gigi Montinola** and **Fred Uytengsu** were seen chit-chatting with **Mark Gilbert** and stock market whiz **Vivian Yuchengco.**

Carla and **Douglas Ramsey** enjoyed the wine with **Sevrine Mialhe,** fashionable **Sigalit Djemal,** ma-ma-to-be **Marit Yuchengco,** and beautiful pair **Andy** and **Kitty Jacinto.**

Also there were the brilliant **Kim Camacho** of Sotheby's, gorgeous **Eva Abesamis,** Manille's top cardiologist Dr. **Randy Francisco** and **Kenny Quintal.**

Hip and trendy shakers of today's partying pack were also there such as suave **Paolo Martel,** with his lady love, eye-catching **Cristina Villanueva; Thea Jacinto; Nikkie Martel; Albert Martinez** and his daughter **Alyanna; Diether Ocampo;** Pineapple's vibrant **Leah Puyat;** good-looking hotshot lawyer **Raffy Garcia** and **Deo Custodio;** vavavoom **Victoria London** with her love, Rustan's U **Joel Tantoco; Reggie** and **Felix Barrientos;** INQUIRER's workasonic **Dennis Valdes;** eligible bachelor **Robert Francisco;** and **Celine Lopez,** natch! Plus others too dynamic to mention, *palanggas*.

On the subject of books, one witty, super-attractive young socialite was asked by somebody on her favorite book. The socialite laughed and said, "My husband's checkbook." Now, here's one smart woman.

Well, like all Philippine Tatler super events, nobody went home empty handed. Invitees left with a copy of "The World of Time," which, like the timepiece featured, will surely be a treasured collectible in the years to come, *palanggas*.

* * *

Hey, the Dish spirit lives on! All you diehard Spirit of 67 followers can catch your favorite band as it takes center stage at Dish today, Feb. 6, in a fab pre-Valentine special.

Croon to favorite love songs with the band and dance to your heart's content, *palanggas*.

But that's not all. Loads of surprise numbers are set just for you, swingers.

Check out the special performance! Reserve your seats now. Call 8981771, 8981772 or 0919-6880627. Dish is the third level of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Catch you there!

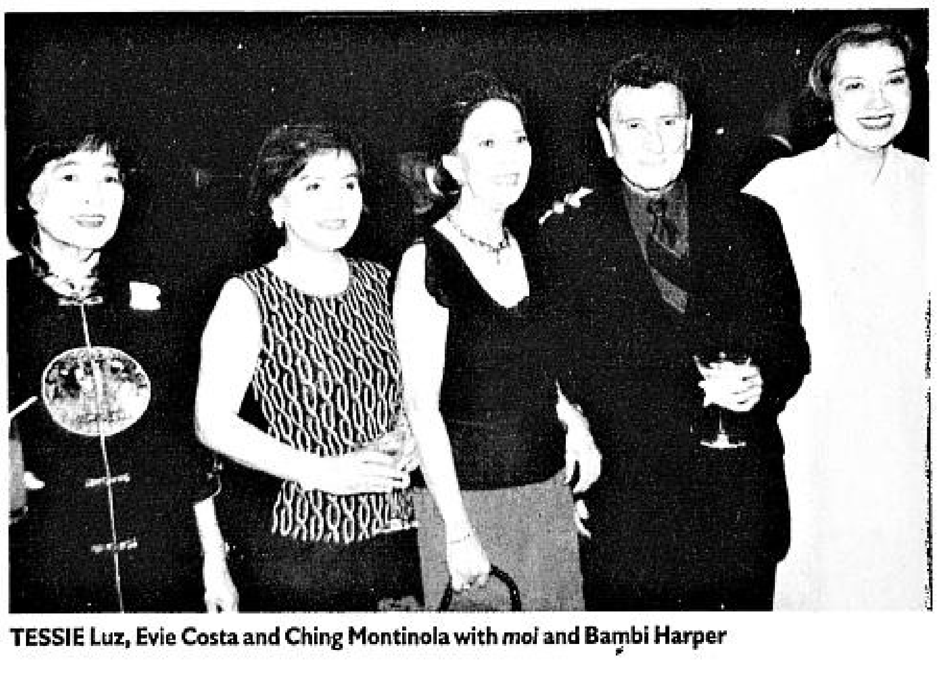
PHILIPPINE Tatler's Anton San Diego and Alaska Corp. CEO Fred Uytengsu

BARBARA and Miguel Aboitiz

HEIR to the Ayala throne Fernando Zobel and his wife, beautiful Kit Silverio

ELEGANT Mme. Imelda Marcos with her grandson, popular model Borgy Manotoc

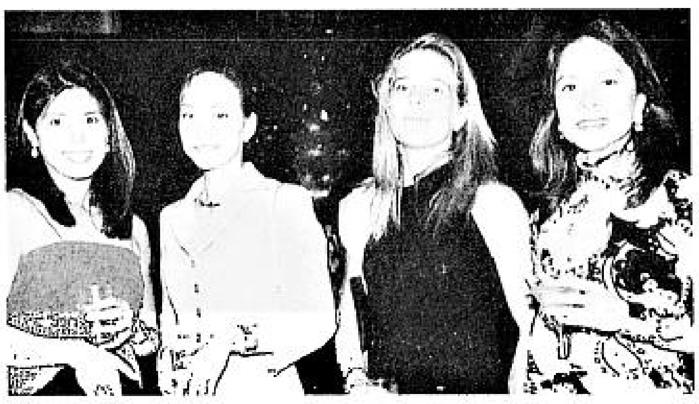
CHU Chu Madrigal Eduque with her aunt, philanthropist Chito Madrigal Collantes



TESSIE Luz, Evie Costa and Ching Montinola with *moi* and Bambi Harper

JOEL Journe, jetting in from Paris, with Melissa Lopez, Bea Madrigal Vasquez and her husband, mega businessman Kirk Fox

YOUNG Anuncia Camacho with taipan Washington Sycip and brilliant Sotheby's lady Kim Camacho



DAZZLERS Marilen Gonzalez Elizalde, Christina Bradner, Sevrine Mialhe and Gina Tambunting Roxas

UNDERSECRETARY Dondi Teehankee

HSBC'S charmer Warner Manning with TV host Johnny Litton and Mark Gilbert

PEDRO Roxas

GORGEOUS Eva Abesamis with BPI hotshot Gigi Montinola and southern belle Alana Montelibano

MONS Tantoco with Mia Borromeo and soon-to-be-mom-again Marit Yuchengco

Corporate savvy and office chic

From page F1

that shows off her individuality yet means business.

The monotony of an office getup can be broken with a shot of color now and then. An intensely sanguine shirt takes away the dreariness of a gray jacket. Blacks, browns and beiges never fail. But there's no better foil to the cold and steely business environs than a pastel-colored skirt or blazer with a shapely silhouette. The Black Shop illustrates samples on this page.

STRIPED long-sleeve shirt (P999), sky-blue skirt (P899) and beige belted jacket (P1,549)

STYLING: TINA MARISTELA-OCAMPO
HAIR AND MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT
MODEL: RISSA SAMSON

ALL CLOTHES FROM THE BLACK SHOP, WITH BRANCHES AT GREENBELT 1, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, SM MEGAMALL, GLORIETTA 4, SM NORTH EDSA, ROBINSONS ERMITA, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL MALL AND SM MANILA SHOES AND ACCESSORIES: STYLIST'S OWN FURNITURE AND HOME ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE AT DOMANI AT THE NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL SHOPPING ARCADE

RED three-quarter-sleeve shirt (P999), two-button blazer (P1,399) and gray skirt (P949)

JUICY Couture turtleneck tee (P4,399, at MIX), beige coat (P1,649), chocolate bron pants (P1,099) and Rafe sash (P9,649, at MIX)

WHITE blouse (P1,099) and black skirt (P949)

Knowing where to shop is not, however, as invaluable as knowing what pieces to buy. It helps to leaf through fashion bibles to learn trends and get tips from time to time.

Pinstripes may have never gone out of fashion, for example, but trendsetters say they're once again hot.

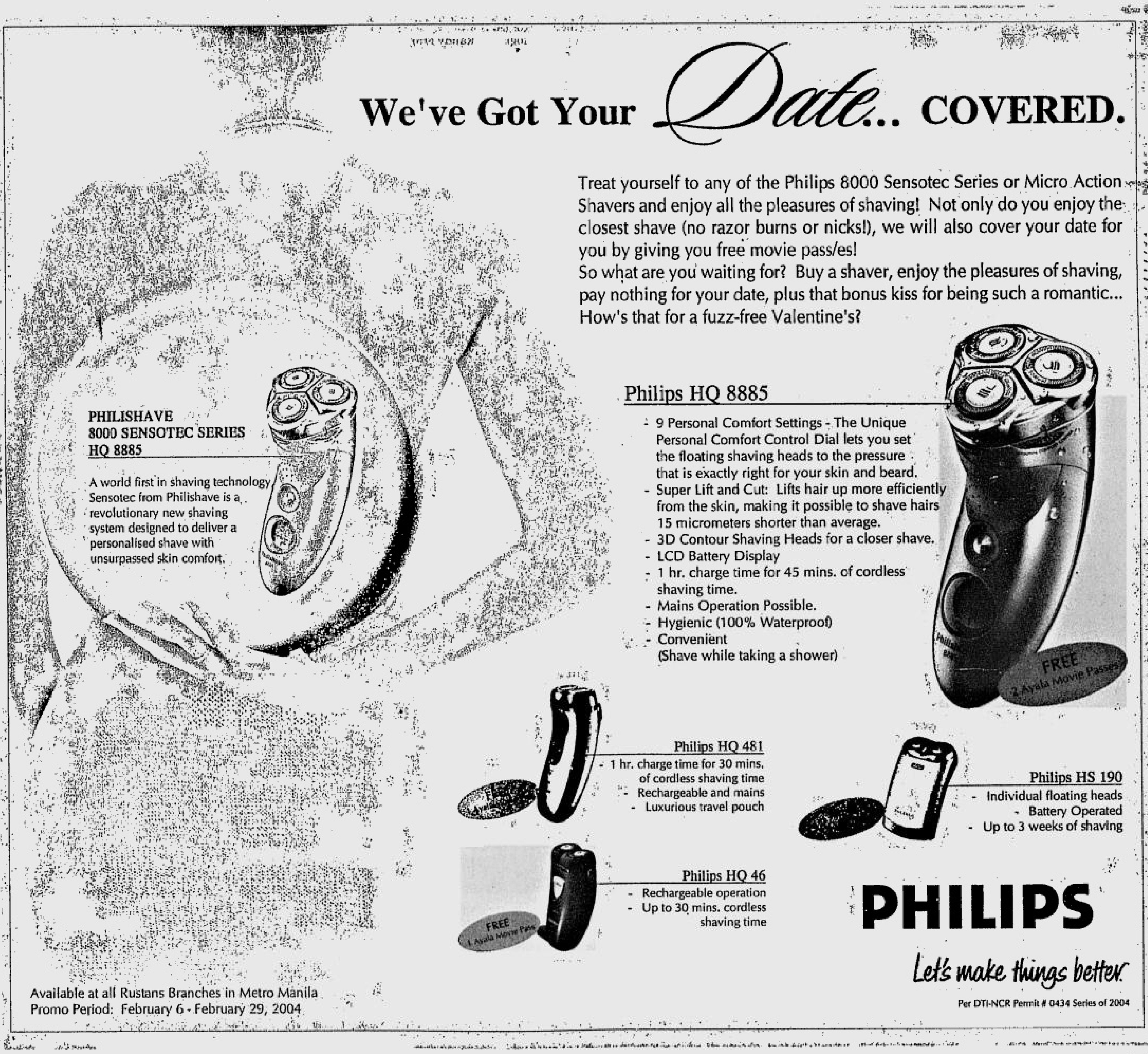
Solid-color pieces may be irreplaceable mainstays in an office wardrobe, but tiny whimsical twists and patterns in shirts and blouses can be welcome breathers.

Accessories, of course, inject the essential flair in an otherwise staid outfit. A change of accessories gives a certain newness to outfits that are worn over and over again, and extends the 9-to-5 life of an office getup to the cocktails or business dinner that comes after.

So perhaps the question is not who's the better sex, but who's the better-looking sex.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

BLACK-AND-WHITE polka-dot shirt (P999), white skirt (P949) and aqua belted jacket (P1,549)



We've Got Your Date... COVERED.

Treat yourself to any of the Philips 8000 Sensotec Series or Micro Action Shavers and enjoy all the pleasures of shaving! Not only do you enjoy the closest shave (no razor burns or nicks!), we will also cover your date for you by giving you free movie pass/es!
So what are you waiting for? Buy a shaver, enjoy the pleasures of shaving, pay nothing for your date, plus that bonus kiss for being such a romantic... How's that for a fuzz-free Valentine's?

PHILISHAVE
8000 SENSOTEC SERIES
HQ 8885

A world first in shaving technology Sensotec from Philishave is a revolutionary new shaving system designed to deliver a personalised shave with unsurpassed skin comfort.

Philips HQ 8885
- 9 Personal Comfort Settings - The Unique Personal Comfort Control Dial lets you set the floating shaving heads to the pressure that is exactly right for your skin and beard.
- Super Lift and Cut: Lifts hair up more efficiently from the skin, making it possible to shave hairs 15 micrometers shorter than average.
- 3D Contour Shaving Heads for a closer shave.
- LCD Battery Display
- 1 hr. charge time for 45 mins. of cordless shaving time.
- Mains Operation Possible.
- Hygienic (100% Waterproof)
- Convenient
(Shave while taking a shower)

FREE 2 Ayala Movie Passes

Philips HQ 481
- 1 hr. charge time for 30 mins. of cordless shaving time
- Rechargeable and mains
- Luxurious travel pouch

Philips HS 190
- Individual floating heads
- Battery Operated
- Up to 3 weeks of shaving

Philips HQ 46
- Rechargeable operation
- Up to 30 mins. cordless shaving time

FREE 1 Ayala Movie Pass

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

Available at all Rustans Branches in Metro Manila
Promo Period: February 6 - February 29, 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0434 Series of 2004

Corporate savvy and office chic

From page F1

that shows off her individuality yet means business.

The monotony of an office getup can be broken with a shot of color now and then. An intensely sanguine shirt takes away the dreariness of a gray jacket. Blacks, browns and beiges never fail. But there's no better foil to the cold and steely business environs than a pastel-colored skirt or blazer with a shapely silhouette. The Black Shop illustrates samples on this page.

JUICY Couture turtleneck tee (P4,399, at MIX), beige coat (P1,649), chocolate bron pants (P1,099) and Rafe sash (P9,649, at MIX)

WHITE blouse (P1,099) and black skirt (P949)

STRIPED long-sleeve shirt (P999), sky-blue skirt (P899) and beige belted jacket (P1,549)

Knowing where to shop is not, however, as invaluable as knowing what pieces to buy. It helps to leaf through fashion bibles to learn trends and get tips from time to time.

Pinstripes may have never gone out of fashion, for example, but trendsetters say they're once again hot.

Solid-color pieces may be irreplaceable mainstays in an office wardrobe, but tiny whimsical twists and patterns in shirts and blouses can be welcome breathers.

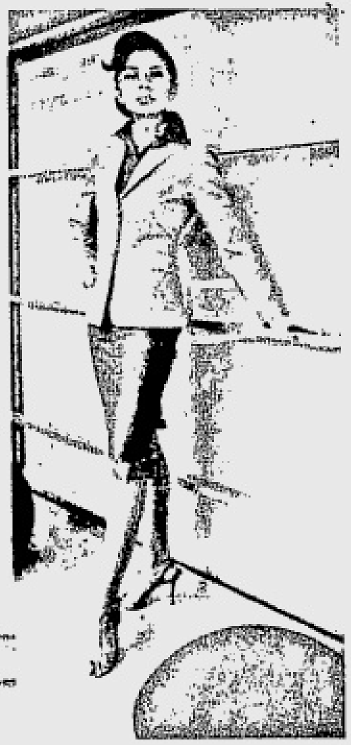
Accessories, of course, inject the essential flair in an otherwise staid outfit. A change of accessories gives a certain newness to outfits that are worn over and over again, and extends the 9-to-5 life of an office getup to the cocktails or business dinner that comes after.

So perhaps the question is not who's the better sex, but who's the better-looking sex.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

STYLING: TINA MARISTELA-OCAMPO
HAIR AND MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT
MODEL: RISSA SAMSON

ALL CLOTHES FROM THE BLACK SHOP, WITH BRANCHES AT GREENBELT 1, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, SM MEGAMALL, GLORIETTA 4, SM NORTH EDSA, ROBINSONS ERMITA, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL MALL AND SM MANILA. SHOES AND ACCESSORIES: STYLIST'S OWN. FURNITURE AND HOME ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE AT DOMANI AT THE NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL SHOPPING ARCADE



RED three-quarter-sleeve shirt (P999), two-button blazer (P1,399) and gray skirt (P949)

BLACK-AND-WHITE polka-dot shirt (P999), white skirt (P949) and aqua belted jacket (P1,549)

We've Got Your *Date*... COVERED.

Treat yourself to any of the Philips 8000 Sensotec Series or Micro Action Shavers and enjoy all the pleasures of shaving! Not only do you enjoy the closest shave (no razor burns or nicks!), we will also cover your date for you by giving you free movie pass/es!
So what are you waiting for? Buy a shaver, enjoy the pleasures of shaving, pay nothing for your date, plus that bonus kiss for being such a romantic... How's that for a fuzz-free Valentine's?

PHILISHAVE
8000 SENSOTEC SERIES
HQ 8885

A world first in shaving technology Sensotec from Philishave is a revolutionary new shaving system designed to deliver a personalised shave with unsurpassed skin comfort.

Philips HQ 8885
- 9 Personal Comfort Settings - The Unique Personal Comfort Control Dial lets you set the floating shaving heads to the pressure that is exactly right for your skin and beard.
- Super Lift and Cut: Lifts hair up more efficiently from the skin, making it possible to shave hairs 15 micrometers shorter than average.
- 3D Contour Shaving Heads for a closer shave.
- LCD Battery Display
- 1 hr. charge time for 45 mins. of cordless shaving time.
- Mains Operation Possible.
- Hygienic (100% Waterproof)
- Convenient (Shave while taking a shower)

FREE 2 Ayala Movie Passes

Philips HQ 481
- 1 hr. charge time for 30 mins. of cordless shaving time
- Rechargeable and mains
- Luxurious travel pouch

FREE Ayala Movie Pass

Philips HS 190
- Individual floating heads
- Battery Operated
- Up to 3 weeks of shaving

FREE Ayala Movie Pass

Philips HQ 46
- Rechargeable operation
- Up to 30 mins. cordless shaving time

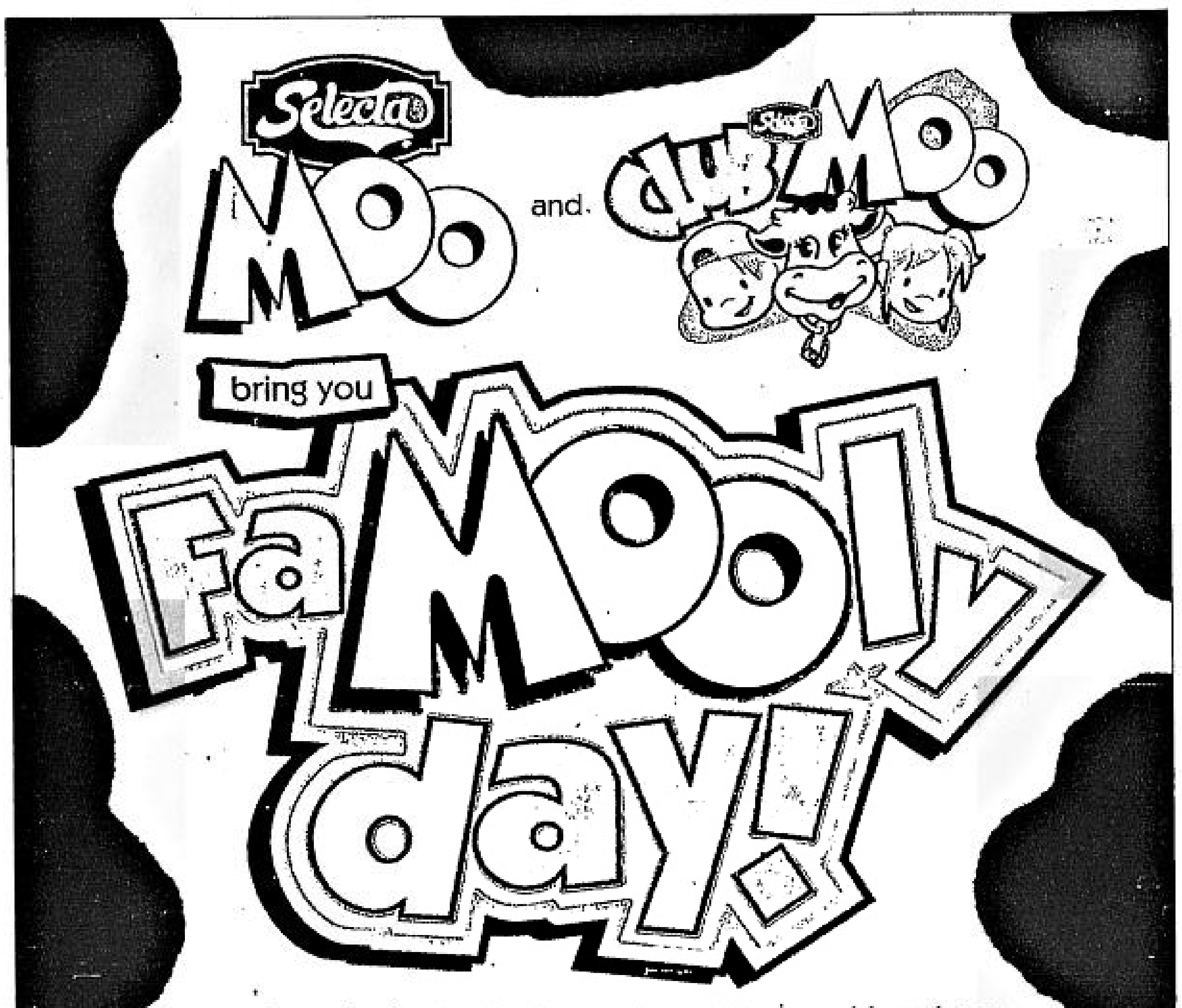
FREE Ayala Movie Pass

Available at all Rustans Branches in Metro Manila
Promo Period: February 6 - February 29, 2004

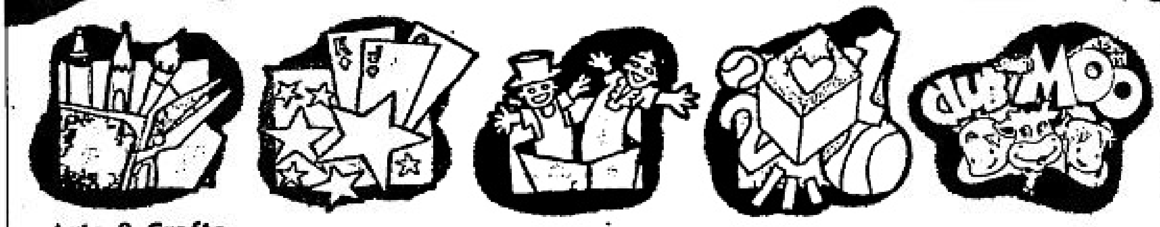
PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0434 Series of 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Bring the whole family for a day of fun and laughter...



Arts & Crafts Contest
Create your own work of art.

Magic Show
Surprise! Surprise! Be amazed with tricks by our master magician!

Puppet Show
Watch stories come alive in a puppet play!

Fun Games
Play all day and win exciting prizes!

Membership
Join the club and enjoy Moo fun!

Enjoy all-day fun with the family at:

Venue: SM Activity Center • SM Bacoor - Feb. 7 • SM Fairview - Feb. 21 • SM Megamall - Feb. 28

For inquiries, please call the hotline nos.: 893-7423, 0927-3318118 or email: clubmookids@yahoo.com

SM Super Malls · Swift Mighty Meaty · White King · Sunkist Sunkidz · Selecta · RFM We Love Kids

Promo offers free haircut for every treatment service

JESI Mendez-Robinsons Galleria is offering twin beauty promos for Valentine. Avail of a free haircut for every L'Oreal treatment service (hair spa, hot oil and power dose) until Feb. 15 at East Wing, 2/L of Robinsons Galleria. Complete the look with a free makeover. Simply purchase P800 worth of L'Oreal makeup in Robinsons Department Store which will entitle the customer to free makeover from Jesi Mendez Salon for men and women on Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, 2-6 p.m., 2/L, Robinsons Department Store-Galleria. Call 6320536 or 6329140.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that:

Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. with address at No. 8 Mercury Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City is the exclusive distributor of window and door profiles produced by profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe of Pirmasens, Germany.

profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe has appointed Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. as its exclusive distributor because of its pioneering experience in PVC-U window and door profiles and its expertise in customizing PVC-U windows and doors. As such, profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe has authorized Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. to customize the window and door profiles supplied to them from Germany. Moreover, profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe provides full and exclusive technical support to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. in order that Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. can customize the window and door profiles to comply with the state of the art standards of profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe.

The public is further notified that all window and door profiles supplied by profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. are produced at the profine GmbH Kömmerling Kunststoffe plant at **Pirmasens, Germany,** as evidenced by the original Kömmerling Kunststoffe protective foil on every profile.

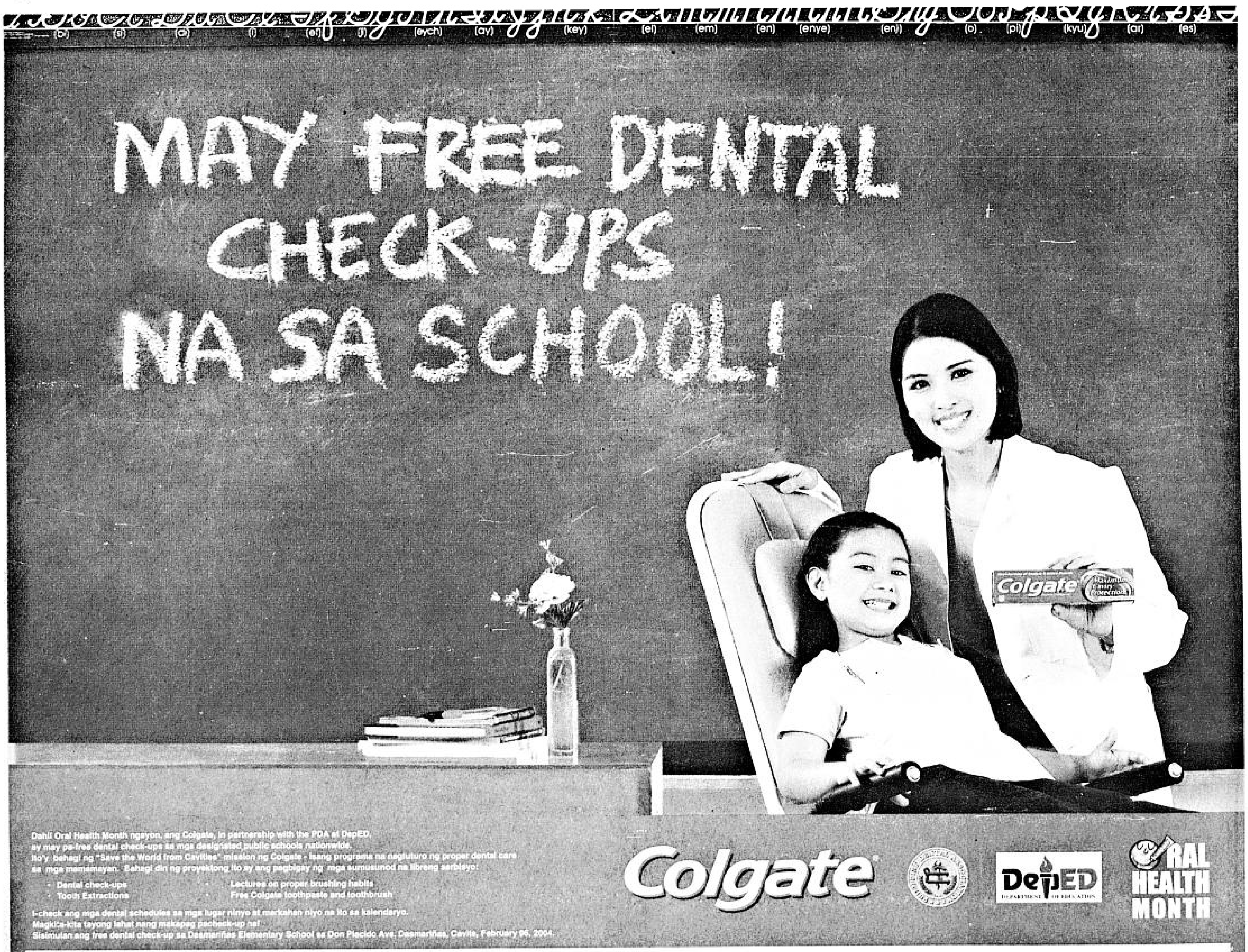
The public is also advised that all window and door profiles supplied by profine GmbH Kömmerling Kunststoffe to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. have the following qualities:

- They have been specifically tropicalized for the ASIAN market as per prEN 12608:1997, 4.1. for color fastness and resistance to weathering for severe climate conditions;
- It complies with BS 5368 for wind resistance up to wind pressure of 2400 PA;
- It complies with BS 6375 for resistance to driving rain, joint tightness and water tightness;
- It has a multi-chamber special insulator to reduce noise to 45 dB;
- It is the only company that complies with Greenline Convention by using only fresh PVC-U with calcium zinc stabilizer and does not utilize any recycled PVC-U or lead based PVC-U;

The public is hereby warned that any product allegedly with the Kömmerling brand **which is not purchased directly from Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. is either fake or is not specially produced for Philippine conditions. Any third party claiming contrary to what is stated in this notice is unauthorized, illegal and/or constitutes unfair trade competition.** Any information regarding such false claims or declarations will be appreciated. Kindly relay such information to the undersigned law firm. Any questions or clarifications as to the matters contained in this notice may likewise be directed to the undersigned law firm.

KÖMMERLING®

COCHINGYAN & PARTNERS LAW OFFICES
6/F Richmonde Plaza,
No. 21 San Miguel Ave., cor. Lourdes St.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Telephone Nos. 637-0382 to 84
e-mail: cochingyan@pacific.net.ph


(bi) (si) (di) (i) (ef) (dyi) (eych) (ay) (key) (el) (em) (en) (enye) (enj) (o) (pi) (kyu) (ar) (es)
MAY FREE DENTAL CHECK-UPS NA SA SCHOOL!
Colgate
DepED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ORAL HEALTH MONTH

Dahil Oral Health Month ngayon, ang Colgate, in partnership with the PDA at DepED, ay may pa-free dental check-ups sa mga designated public schools nationwide. Ito'y bahagi ng "Save the World from Cavities" mission ng Colgate - isang programa na nagtuturo ng proper dental care sa mga mamamayan. Bahagi din ng proyektong ito ay ang pagbigay ng mga sumusunod na libreng serbisyo:

- Dental check-ups
- Tooth Extractions
- Lectures on proper brushing habits
- Free Colgate toothpaste and toothbrush

I-check ang mga dental schedules sa mga lugar ninyo at markahan niyo na ito sa kalendaryo.
Magkita-kita tayong lahat nang makapag pacheck-up na!
Simulan ang free dental check-up sa Dasmariñas Elementary School sa Don Placido Ave, Dasmariñas, Cavite, February 06, 2004.

LUZON
PANGASINAN · Feb12 – Bacayao Sur Elementary School (ES), Brgy. Bacayao, Dagupan City · Feb13 – Nanbakuran ES, Abico, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan · Feb14 – Bactad Proper ES, Brgy. Pedro T. Orata, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan · Feb16 – Cabaloan ES, Nangcamatiran, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan · Feb19 – Lucao ES, Brgy. Lucao, Dagupan City · Feb20 – Malued ES, Brgy. Malued, Dagupan City. **ISABELA** · Feb9 – Santiago East Central School (CS), Rizal, Santiago City · Feb10 – Baptista Village ES, Sampaguita, Calao East, Santiago City · Feb11 – Divisoria ES, Divisoria, Santiago City · Feb12 – Santiago North CS, City Road, Calao West, Santiago City · Feb13 – Santiago South CS, Camarcam St., Malvar, Santiago City. **NUEVA VIZCAYA** · Feb16 – Bayombong CS, Bayombong I · Feb17 – Magsaysay ES, Magsaysay, Bayombong I · Feb18 – Bayombong West, Bay. West, Bayombong II · Feb19 – Bonfal Pilot CS, Bonfal Pilot, Bayombong II · Feb20 – Casat ES, Casat, Bayombong II. **PAMPANGA** · Feb12 – Del Pilar CS, Del Pilar, San Fernando City · Feb13 – Arch. E. Cinunce Memorial ES, San Felipe, San Fernando City. **NUEVA ECIJA** · Feb23 – Aca ES, San Juan Acofa, Cabanatuan · Feb24 – Bagong Sikat ES, Cabanatuan. **TARLAC** · Feb16 – Binaoganan, Tarlac City · Feb17 – San Sebastian ES, San Sebastian. **ZAMBALES** · Feb17 – Boton ES, Purok 4, New Cabalan, Olongapo City · Feb18 – East Bajac-Bajac ES, Olongapo City · Feb19 – Asinan ES, Gordon Ave., Asinan, Olongapo City. **BENGUET** · Feb11 – Adiwang ES, Sto. Tomas School Area, Baguio City · Feb12 – Aguinaldo ES, GEFA, Lower QM, Baguio City · Feb13 – Baguio CS, Kayang Ext., Baguio City · Feb14 – Donlogan ES, Km. 6, Sto. Tomas Rd., Baguio City · Feb15 – Josefa Cariño ES, Yandoc St., Baguio City · Feb16 – Pacdal Quirino ES, Km 4, Asin Rd., Baguio City · Feb17 – Quezon Hill ES, Middle Quezon Hill, Baguio City · Feb18 – Quirino ES, Irisan, Baguio City · Feb19 – San Carlos Heights PS, San Carlos Hts., Baguio City · Feb20 – Sto. Tomas ES, Apugan, Sto. Tomas Central, Baguio City. **METRO MANILA** · Feb13 – San Joaquin ES, Lope K. Santos St., Brgy. San Joaquin, Pasig City · Feb16 – Pinaglabanan ES, Pinaglabanan St., Tibagan, Brgy. Isabelita, San Juan

VISAYAS
BACOLOD CITY · Feb12 – Rizal Elementary School (ES) · Feb13 – A. Mabini ES, Mabini · Feb16 – G. Lopez Jaena ES, Lopez Jaena · Feb18 – JR Torres ES, Airport Subd. · Feb19 – E. Garcia ES, Alijis · Feb23 – Bata I ES, Bata Subd. · Feb24 – ETSC III, Yulo-Libertad · Feb26 – R. Model ES, Tangub · Feb27 – Sum-ag ES, Sum-ag. **LEYTE** · Feb9 – Kapangian ES, Salazar St., Tacloban · Feb10 – Tacloban ES, Salazar St., Tacloban · Feb12 – Rizal ES, J. Romualdez St., Tacloban · Feb16 – San Jose ES, Brgy. San Jose, Tacloban · Feb17 – Sagkahan ES, Brgy. Sagkahan, Tacloban · Feb18 – Scandinavian ES, Brgy. San Roque, Tacloban · Feb19 – Bagacay ES, Tacloban · Feb20 – Palo ES, Poblacion Palo · Feb23 – Panalaron ES, San Enage St., Tacloban · Feb24 – Tigbao ES, Maharlika Hi-way, Tacloban · Feb25 – San Fernando ES, Real St., Tacloban

MINDANAO
ZAMBOANGA · Feb9 – Canelar Elementary School (ES), Canelar · Feb10 – Southcom ES, Upper Calarian, San Jose Guso Baliwasan · Feb11 – San Jose Guso ES, San Jose Baliwasan · Feb12 – Sta. Maria ES, Sta. Maria · Feb13 – Zamboanga East CS, Calixto St., Zone 2 · Feb16 – Zamboanga West CS, San Jose · Feb17 – Cinunuc ES, Cinunuc Ayala · Feb18 – Tumaga ES, Tumaga · Feb19 – Sta. Barbara CS, Sta. Barbara · Feb20 – Recodo ES, Recodo Ayala · Feb25 – Baliwasan Central School (CS), Baliwasan. **MISAMIS ORIENTAL** · Feb9 – City CS (including SPED), Velez St., CDO · Feb10 – East City CS (LAPASAN), Lapasan, CDO · Feb11 – Bugo CS, Bugo, CDO · Feb12 – Corrales ES, Corrales, CDO · Feb13 – Bayabas ES, Bayabas, CDO · Feb16 – South City CS-Nazareth, Nazareth, CDO · Feb17 – Macasandig ES, Macasandig CDO · Feb18 – Lumbia CS, Lumbia, CDO · Feb19 – Bayanga ES, Bayanga, CDO · Feb24 – Gusa ES, Gusa, CDO · Feb23 – Baluarte ES, Lumbia, CDO · Feb25 – Balulang ES, Balulang, CDO · Feb26 – North City CS, Camaman-an, CDOC · Feb27 – West City CS, Vamenta Blvd., Carmen CDOC · Feb28 – Camp Evangelista CS, Camp Evangelista, Patag, CDOC · Mar1 – Bulua ES, Bulua, CDOC · Mar2 – Kauswagan ES, Kauswagan, CDOC · Mar4 – Bonbon ES, Bonbon, CDO. **DAVAO CITY** · Feb9 – Don J. Rodriguez Sr. ES, R. Castillo St., St. Roque · Feb10 – Elpidio Quirino ES, Bo. Obrero, St. Roque · Feb11 – J.L. Porras ES, New Salmonan, Agdao, St. Roque · Feb12 – Bolton ES, Bolton St. · Feb13 – Tugbok CS, Tugbok · Feb16 – Lacson ES, Lacson, Calinan · Feb17 – Diego Silang ES, Matina · Feb18 – GSIS Heights, GSIS, Matina · Feb19 – Don Manuel Gutierrez ES, Matina. · Feb20 – Binugao Central ES, Binugao, Toril · Feb24 – Bayanihan ES, Lanzona Subd., Matina · Mar1 – Magsaysay ES, Toril · Mar2 – Don Juan C. ES, Toril · Mar3 – Jose Bastida ES, Toril · Mar4 – Mintal ES, Mintal

*Schedules subject to change without prior notice

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Ties that bind

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE greeted the Year of the Monkey like an ostrich, with head buried in the sand, trying to shut out political-circus news that would otherwise make us puke.

But the,n if you look around, no matter the mock-panic about the near future, our lifestyle goes on. People are working hard and laughing hard, living beyond and outside government and politics.

In short, the country is on productive auto-pilot. It has to be, especially for us educated middle class whose work ethic and old-fashioned, down-home values are our means to survival—and to keeping our sanity—over and above politicians and decrepit systems.

It's business as usual—our *tiangges* and malls offer the best bargains that draw tourists and *balikbayans*—and Filipinos, warm and personal as we are, will never run out of ties that bind. That, we are rich in.

A few weeks ago, our car groped in the dark in Tagaytay and on to Cavite in search of **Kuh Ledesma's** Hacienda Isabella, where **Rafael "Apa" Ongpin** was to wed his fiancée **Ana Rapadas.** The wedding was at 5 p.m. in Simbahan ni San Gregorio (17th century church) in Indang, Cavite, but running late, we decided to head straight to Hacienda Isabella in Barrio Carasuchi, following Apa's map and detailed prose that went with the invitation.

Like a writer who didn't know how to follow instructions, complete with kilometer-reading (it's that detailed), meticulously worded by another writer, we got lost, waylaid into turning at the wrong barangay hall.

When we finally arrived long after darkness had set in, we had already forgotten our earlier intention to chastise the groom about why he and Ana had chosen a such out-of-the-way venue in Cavite, just a little off Tagaytay, when the logical urbanite-friendly venue should have been Tagaytay Highlands (of course, we forgot that Apa never went for the easy stuff). Kuh's place was that beautiful; it was worth the search.

Guests who made it on time were those who knew how to read the map.

Hacienda magic

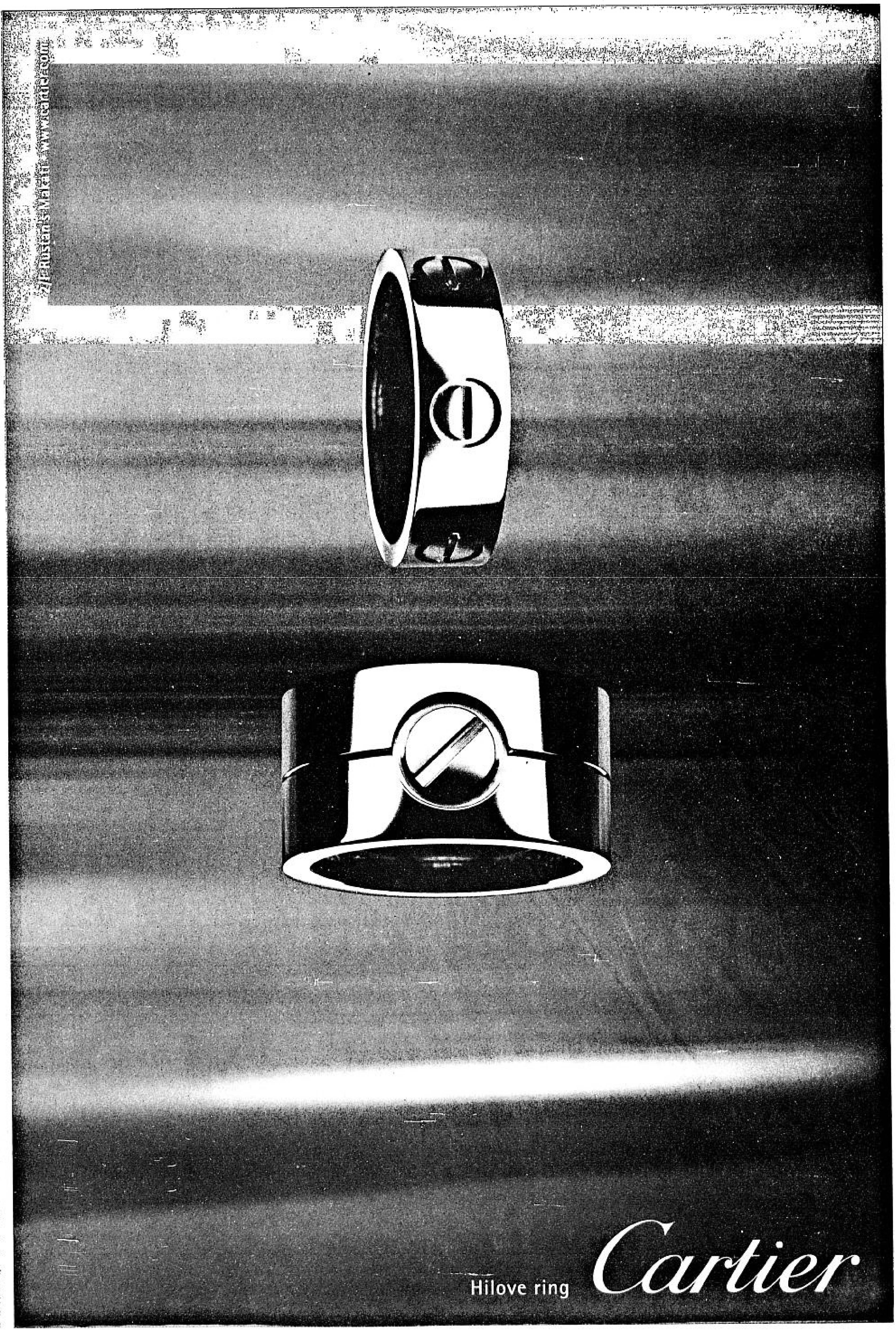
Kuh's hacienda, named after her only child Isabella, is a 4½ ha sprawl with sloping terrain. In it stands an airy concrete high-ceilinged (20-ft high atrium) home in immaculate white—vast, its fixtures and décor sparse yet tasteful.

Its furniture is mainly rough-hewn wood so intricately and interestingly crafted, selected by Kuh, the Philippine diva who has through the years derived great pleasure from fixing interiors—mainly her home and restaurant.

The grandeur of the house is masked by the fact that it barely has massive walls so that the ground floor opens out onto the garden and beyond it, the horizon, that night speckled with blobs of light hanging from the trees. A prominent tree at the foyer, of course, was the *kalachuchi*, after which, we presumed, the barrio was named.

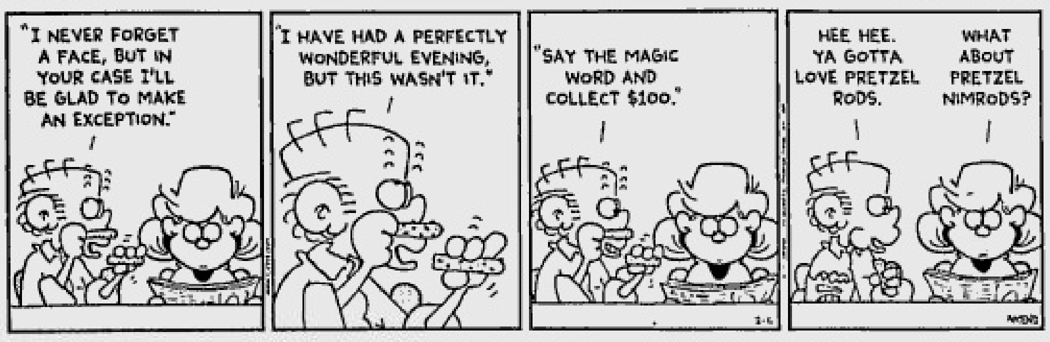
TIES/ G3

MAILA Elgar, Angela Valenton, Apa and Ana, Crischelle Magaspi, Tricia Ligon, Tricia Yatco and Guia Gonzales

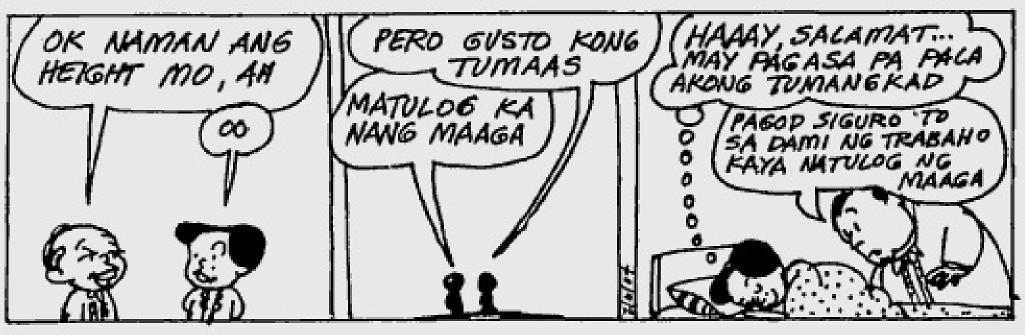


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2004

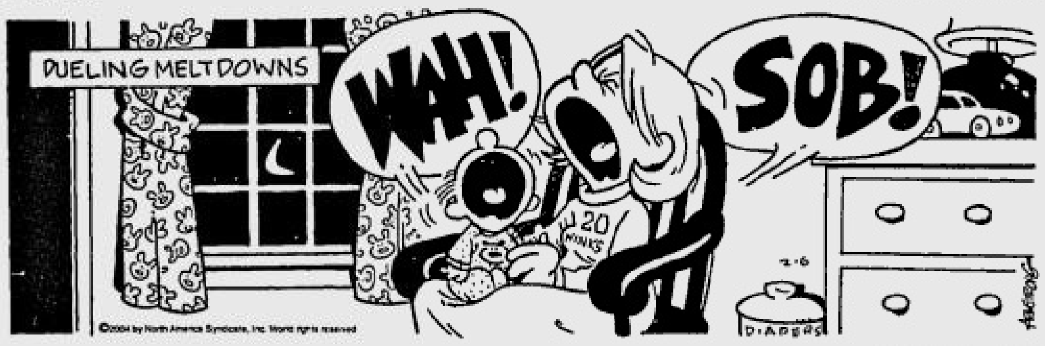
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


"I NEVER FORGET A FACE, BUT IN YOUR CASE I'LL BE GLAD TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION."
"I HAVE HAD A PERFECTLY WONDERFUL EVENING, BUT THIS WASN'T IT."
"SAY THE MAGIC WORD AND COLLECT $100."
HEE HEE. YA GOTTA LOVE PRETZEL RODS.
WHAT ABOUT PRETZEL NIMRODS?

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

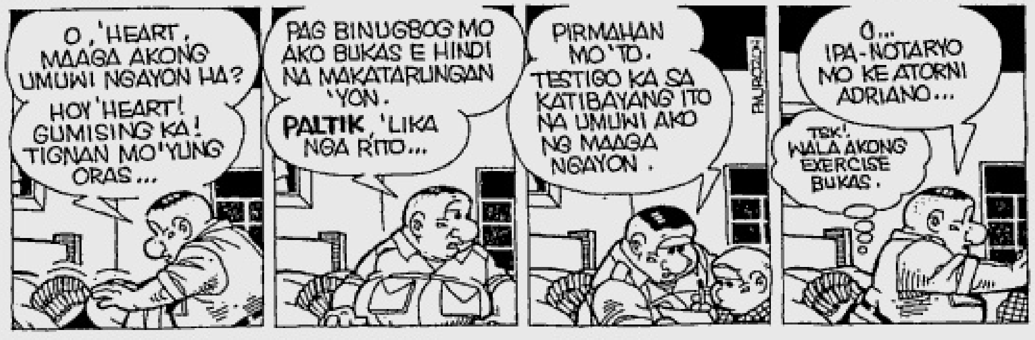

OK NAMAN ANG HEIGHT MO, AH
∞
PERO GUSTO KONG TUMAAS
MATULOG KA NANG MAAGA
HAAAY, SALAMAT... MAY PAGASA PA PALA AKONG TUMANGKAD
PAGOD SIGURO 'TO SA DAMI NG TRABAHO KAYA NATULOG NG MAAGA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

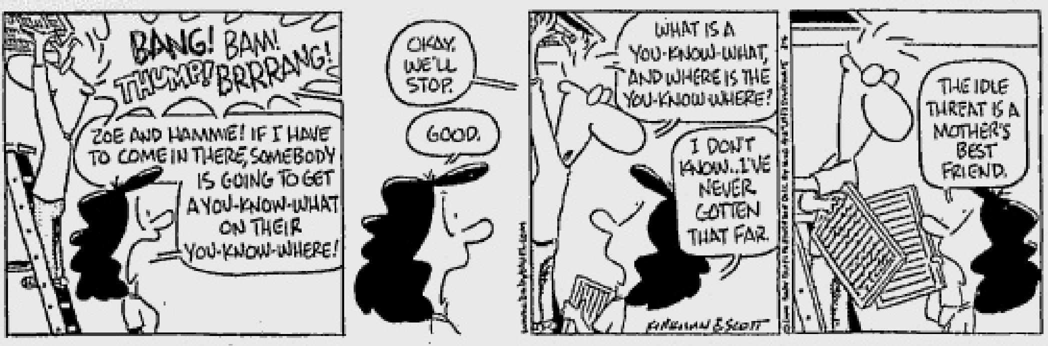

DUELING MELTDOWNS
WAH!
SOB!
20 WINKS
DIAPERS
2-6

©2004 by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

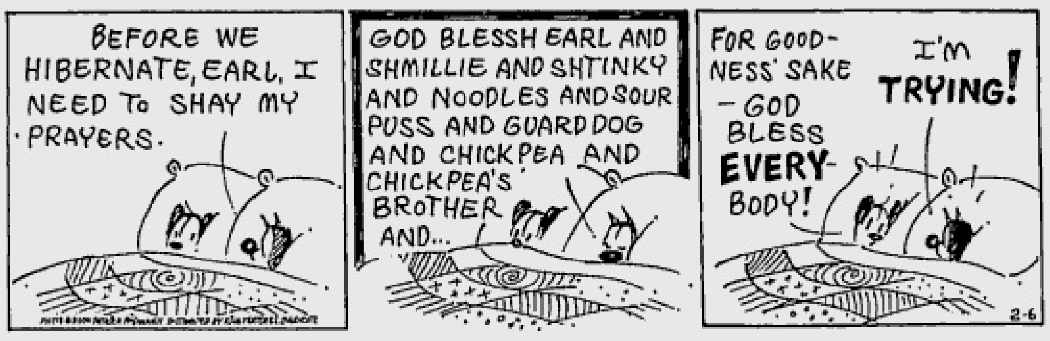
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, 'HEART, MAAGA AKONG UMUWI NGAYON HA?
HOY 'HEART! GUMISING KA! TIGNAN MO'YUNG ORAS...
PAG BINUGBOG MO AKO BUKAS E HINDI NA MAKATARUNGAN 'YON.
PALTIK, 'LIKA NGA RITO...
PIRMAHAN MO 'TO. TESTIGO KA SA KATIBAYANG ITO NA UMUWI AKO NG MAAGA NGAYON.
O... IPA-NOTARYO MO KE ATORNI ADRIANO...
TSK! WALA AKONG EXERCISE BUKAS.

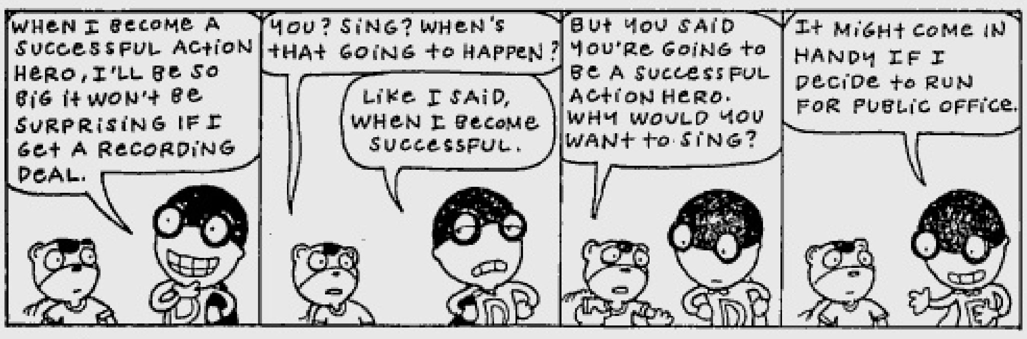
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


BANG! BAM! THUMP! BRRRANG!
ZOE AND HAMMIE! IF I HAVE TO COME IN THERE, SOMEBODY IS GOING TO GET A YOU-KNOW-WHAT ON THEIR YOU-KNOW-WHERE!
OKAY. WE'LL STOP.
GOOD.
WHAT IS A YOU-KNOW-WHAT, AND WHERE IS THE YOU-KNOW-WHERE?
I DON'T KNOW..I'VE NEVER GOTTEN THAT FAR.
THE IDLE THREAT IS A MOTHER'S BEST FRIEND.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

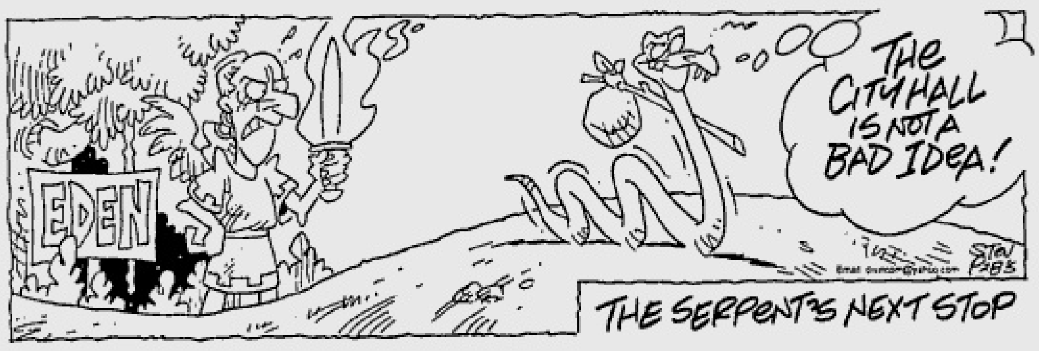
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BEFORE WE HIBERNATE, EARL, I NEED TO SHAY MY PRAYERS.
GOD BLESSH EARL AND SHMILLIE AND SHTINKY AND NOODLES AND SOUR PUSS AND GUARD DOG AND CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER AND...
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE — GOD BLESS EVERYBODY!
I'M TRYING!
2-6

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHEN I BECOME A SUCCESSFUL ACTION HERO, I'LL BE SO BIG IT WON'T BE SURPRISING IF I GET A RECORDING DEAL.
YOU? SING? WHEN'S THAT GOING TO HAPPEN?
LIKE I SAID, WHEN I BECOME SUCCESSFUL.
BUT YOU SAID YOU'RE GOING TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ACTION HERO. WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SING?
IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY IF I DECIDE TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


EDEN
THE CITY HALL IS NOT A BAD IDEA!
STEV PABS
THE SERPENT'S NEXT STOP

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong social skills and know how to work a room. Because of this, many of you are popular. Your popularity goes beyond your charm, however; you have an instinct for seeing a commonality between situations and people. You inspire confidence and trust from others. Major changes will take place this year, as significant as in 1995.

Birthdate of: Axl Rose, musician; Ronald Reagan, 40th US president; Bob Marley, reggae master.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're tempted to spend money impulsively today. You just can't resist spending money for a good time or possibly buying something for children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your thinking is impulsive and changeable today. You surprise others by being completely unpredictable. In fact, you surprise even yourself!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You won't feel patient with restraints today. You feel restless, erratic and highly independent. You want the freedom to do exactly what you want to do.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Expect to be surprised or blown out of the water by something that a friend says or does today. On the other hand, you might simply meet someone who is eccentric and unusual.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might be thrown into the limelight briefly in a most unusual fashion today. Be careful that your aroused ambition does not take you too far, too fast.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Sudden opportunities to travel look exciting! Similarly, unexpected opportunities connected with publishing, higher education and the law are also surprising. Be open-minded and stay flexible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): An unexpected bonus, favor or delivery of supplies makes things easier at work. However, for some of you, the surprise will be a sudden shortage of what you need. (Ouch.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Stimulating friends are entertaining today. You might also meet new friends or associates who are exciting and fascinating. Their very difference is what intrigues you.

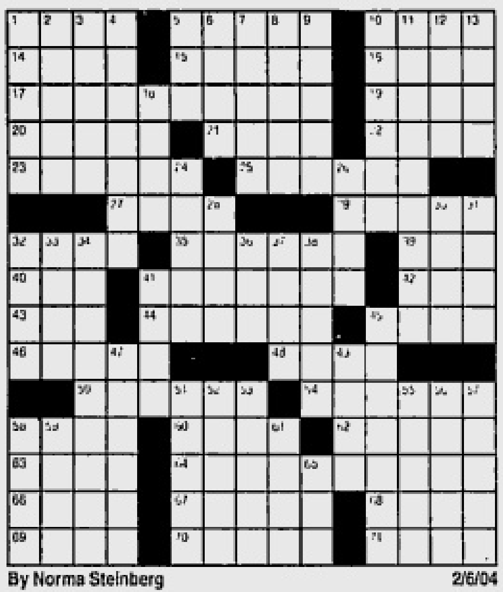
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): There is something you want to change for the better at home (or at work). You don't want any interference with your plans. You know exactly what you want to do. (So do it.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Love at first sight plus surprise, unexpected flirtations could make this a memorable day for you. It's also a day where a long shot might pay off. (Good luck!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might meet somebody through a family member or in your domestic sphere today who is new and exciting. Something takes place on the home front that is a bit unusual and different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your mind flits from topic to topic today. You feel restless, excitable and unsettled. You just need some fresh stimulation. You want to learn something new and exciting!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
2/6/04

ACROSS
1 Level to the ground
5 Mow closely
10 Taj Mahal site
14 Biblical garden
15 Makes well
16 Whiskey shot
17 Gilded watches?
19 Kierkegaard or Borge
20 Zeal
21 "Smooth Operator" singer
22 Symbol
23 Drew closer
25 Wicked
27 Pass over
29 __-ski
32 Advantage
35 Darjeeling server
39 Grand __ Opry
40 Mama __!
41 Exploits
42 Candler of Coca-Cola
43 Internet address
44 Beach collection
45 Middle Eastern gulf
46 Stitched lines
48 Retained
50 Like sitcom laughter
54 Yakked it up
58 Singe
60 Remove wrinkles
62 AWOL part
63 Portion
64 Best man and ushers?
66 Leg. eagle
67 Civic maker
68 Submerge
69 Soothsayer
70 Cornered in branches
71 Ms. Trueheart

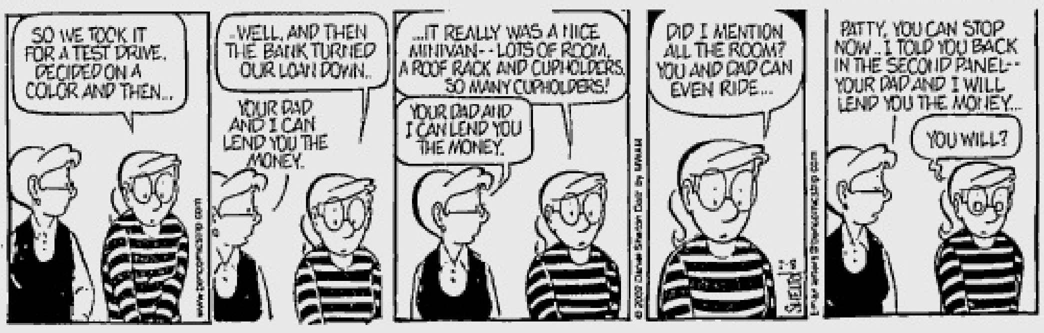
DOWN
1 One of Lear's daughters
2 Love deeply
3 Mrs. Fitzgerald
4 Sanction
5 Half of B.S.
6 Carries a tune wordlessly
7 Localities
8 "La Traviata" composer
9 City on the Ruhr
10 Makes sense
11 Parsifal's route?
12 Pealed
13 You said it!
18 Arduous journey
24 Roadside furrow
26 Waller or Domino
28 Sneaky guy?
30 Otherwise
31 Writer O'Casey
32 Ostrich kin
33 Calamitous
34 Festive menu?
36 Feel poorly
37 "54-40 or fight" president
38 Beginning
41 Org.
45 Minimally
47 Long-suffering one
49 Pick up stealthily
51 Dark time
52 Baseball bobble
53 Blackmore's "Lorna __"
55 Couric of TV
56 Levels off
57 Office furniture
58 Audit pros
59 Despise
61 Protuberance
65 Loony

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

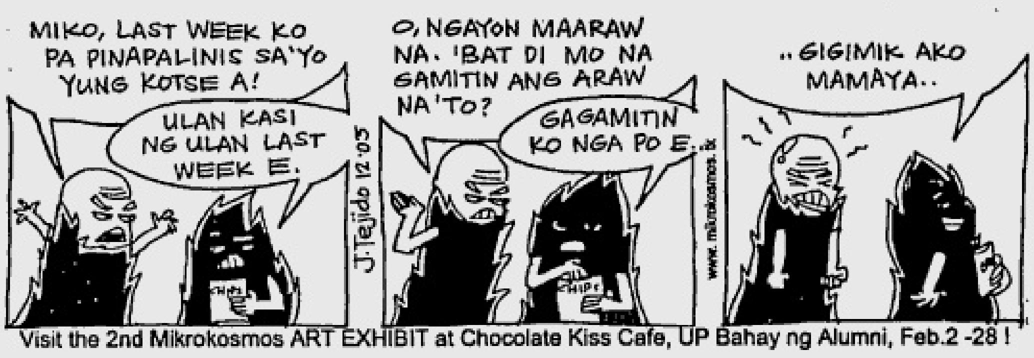
S	N	A	P	S	■	H	A	D	■	B	R	I	D	E
E	E	R	I	E	■	A	B	A	■	A	U	T	O	S
T	H	A	T	W	H	I	C	H	D	O	E	S	N	T
U	R	B	A	N	E	R	■	L	O	B	■	■	■	■
P	U	S	S	■	I	D	S	■	S	A	L	A	D	S
■	■	■	■	F	R	O	N	T	■	B	A	G	E	L
S	H	A	P	E	D	■	O	A	F	■	B	E	L	A
K	I	L	L	Y	O	U	W	I	L	L	O	N	L	Y
I	L	I	A	■	M	G	M	■	A	O	R	T	A	S
P	L	A	N	K	■	H	A	S	T	Y	■	■	■	■
S	Y	S	T	E	M	■	N	O	T	■	H	A	L	T
■	■	■	■	N	O	S	■	R	E	V	E	R	I	E
M	A	K	E	Y	O	U	S	T	R	O	N	G	E	R
A	M	I	G	O	■	C	H	I	■	I	C	O	N	S
R	A	D	O	N	■	H	U	E	■	D	E	N	S	E

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
2/6/04

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

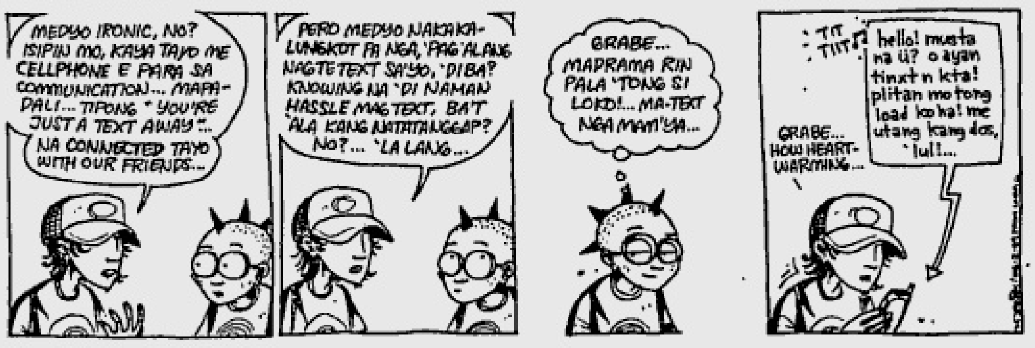

SO WE TOOK IT FOR A TEST DRIVE. DECIDED ON A COLOR AND THEN...
...WELL, AND THEN THE BANK TURNED OUR LOAN DOWN..
YOUR DAD AND I CAN LEND YOU THE MONEY.
...IT REALLY WAS A NICE MINIVAN-- LOTS OF ROOM, A ROOF RACK AND CUPHOLDERS. SO MANY CUPHOLDERS!
YOUR DAD AND I CAN LEND YOU THE MONEY.
DID I MENTION ALL THE ROOM? YOU AND DAD CAN EVEN RIDE...
PATTY, YOU CAN STOP NOW.. I TOLD YOU BACK IN THE SECOND PANEL-- YOUR DAD AND I WILL LEND YOU THE MONEY...
YOU WILL?

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

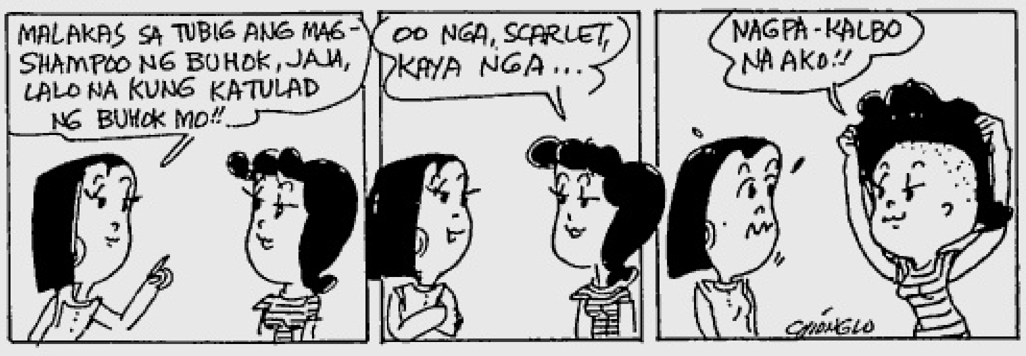

MIKO, LAST WEEK KO PA PINAPALINIS SA'YO YUNG KOTSE A!
ULAN KASI NG ULAN LAST WEEK E.
J.Tejido 12'03
O, NGAYON MAARAW NA. 'BAT DI MO NA GAMITIN ANG ARAW NA'TO?
GAGAMITIN KO NGA PO E..
www.mikrokosmos.
..GIGIMIK AKO MAMAYA..

Visit the 2nd Mikrokosmos ART EXHIBIT at Chocolate Kiss Cafe, UP Bahay ng Alumni, Feb.2 -28 !

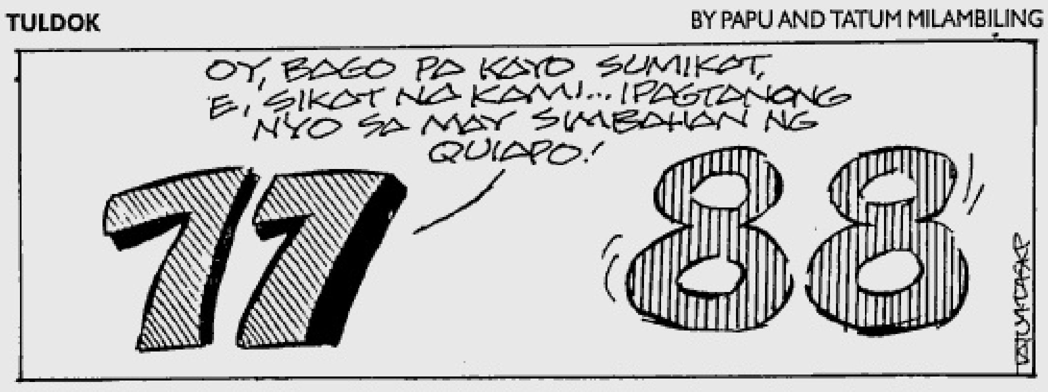
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


MEDYO IRONIC, NO? ISIPIN MO, KAYA TAYO ME CELLPHONE E PARA SA COMMUNICATION... MAPADALI... TIPONG "YOU'RE JUST A TEXT AWAY"... NA CONNECTED TAYO WITH OUR FRIENDS...
PERO MEDYO NAKAKALUNGKOT PA NGA, 'PAG 'ALANG NAGTETEXT SA'YO, 'DI BA? KNOWING NA 'DI NAMAN HASSLE MAGTEXT, BA'T 'ALA KANG NATATANGGAP? NO?... 'LA LANG...
GRABE... MADRAMA RIN PALA 'TONG SI LOKO!... MA-TEXT NGA MAN'YA...
TIT TIIT!
GRABE... HOW HEART-WARMING...
hello! musta na ü? o ayan tinxt n kta! plitan mo tong load ko ha! me utang 'kang dos, lul!...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MALAKAS SA TUBIG ANG MAG-SHAMPOO NG BUHOK, JAJA, LALO NA KUNG KATULAD NG BUHOK MO!!
OO NGA, SCARLET, KAYA NGA...
NAGPA-KALBO NA AKO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, BAGO PA KAYO SUMIKOT, E, SIKOT NA KAMI... IPAGTANONG NYO SA MAY SIMBAHAN NG QUIAPO!
77
88

BEHIND: Louie Ongpin with son Jay. Middle: Maribel Ongpin, Deanna Ongpin-Recto, Rosana Robles. Front: Roberta Periquet, Nichole Robles Fernandez

LYDIA Dy-Ragos, Emy Malong, Ana and Apa, Rosana Robles, Dr. Ramon Dy-Ragos

Over and beyond politics, the country's on productive auto-pilot, its lifestyle sustained by work ethic and old-fashioned values

EDWARD Miailhe with son Eliot and Anton Periquet

MAURO Agustines, Nanette de Leon, Karla Delgado and Ramon Agustines

JOANA Ongpin-Duarte, Lisa Ongpin-Periquet and Maribel Ongpin

APA and Ana with Isabella Gonzalez and Kuh Ledesma

Ties that bind

From page G1

For the past six years, this hacienda home was a work in progress. You assume that it'll continue to be, adding on character through time.

Beyond the house were two pavilions with sofas where guests could lounge on. They enclose a Mediterranean grove where Kuh grows herbs. This was the first time the house was open to the public.

However, it wasn't really a public. Apa and Ana had very few select guests, only family and a few friends.

Among them were former Sen. **Ting Paterno** and wife **Baby, Jaime** and **Bea Zobel, Cesar** and **Bambi Buenaventura, Gigi** and **Ging Montinola, Robbie** and **Helen Delgado,** brothers **Ramon** and **Mauro Agustines** (whose parents **Manolo** and **Rosarito** couldn't make it), **Chris Lim,** brothers **Andy** and **Tito Locsin** and other prominent but very low-key friends of the newlyweds, and their parents, the late **Jaime Ongpin** and **Maribel.** (Don't you miss low-key?)

Leading the family was the matriarch **Lourdes Ongpin** and her children **Cynthia (Valdes), Louie, Rene, Deanna (Recto).** Apa's siblings **Lisa (Periquet)** with husband **Anton, Joanna (Duarte)** with husband **Ramon,** and **Miguel** were around, of course. Apa's brother **Yuan** and wife **Yanna** couldn't make the trip home from San Francisco because Yanna is in her delicate first trimester.

Also around were Apa's cousins led by **Dave Valdes** with wife **Maria Elena Valdes,** his sister **Tina, Jay Ongpin.** We missed **Dennis** and **Tessa Valdes.**

Apa's best man was the architect **Andy Locsin** who came with his wife **Mailin.** Also there in full force was Apa and Ana's Sy-quia Apartment gang—**Pato Sy-quia, Bobby Araneta, Butch Perez, Dodo Lim, Neal** and **Susan Oshima, Bon-jin Bolinao, Chiqui Mabanta** and her boyfriend **Al Dingwall** of the World Health Organization, **Dixie Mabanta, Kim** and **Feli Atienza** (who's expecting their second child) and Malate stalwarts like **John Silva,** Kuh's husband **Louie Gonzales.**

Chic in purple

Katrina Legarda was also around, reiterating that she wouldn't be a nuisance candidate for the Senate even now that **Loren Legarda** is running. **Karla Delgado,** who came with **Leon Araneta,** looked so chic in purple silk wrap and knee-high boots (one of the few who could manage such a chic combination). **Karen** posed so gamely—and prettily—with ex-husband **Cheman Yulo** and **Leon.**

Of course, Apa's ABS-CBN Publishing family was there—**Ernie** and **Jeena Lopez, Gino Evaristo, Sandy Henson, Pilut Montes, Carlo Tadiar** and Publishing's *barkada* from Broadcasting, **Ces Drilon.**

Ana looked the perfect **Auggie Cordero** bride—so glamorous in an off-white alaskin that was so snug at the waist and masterfully shaped into a bustle at the back, her dainty tulle petticoat peeking out at the hem whenever she raised her gown. So Givenchy.

Only 24 years old, Ana wasn't even born yet when alaskin was the vogue, but this young bride with definitive taste decided she wanted her gown to be made of this nearly extinct fabric. Yearning to craft a gown out of alaskin again, Auggie did a bit of a search, and through a friend, found its source in New York. The designer used glitter so sparingly that it didn't distract from the alaskin texture and construction.

On hand to fuss over Ana were her mom **Rosana Robles** and sisters **Nichole** and **Natasha.**

Toni Parsons was just as understated in her floral arrangement around the house and on the tables. She used huge calla lilies propped in their raw order on the tables. On one long dining table was a giant vase of calla lilies nestled in a wild spray of tall grass—all natural and white.

Revving up the youthful energy was Apa's band, the Blue Rats with **John Besa,** Sampaguita's son **Cowboy** and **Andy Locsin** literally letting his hair down as he plucked the rhythm guitar. The band's singer was also good—**Beatriz Yulo Gomez,** Andy's niece and sister of soprano **Margarita Gomez.**

It was a night not only of romance but also of true friendships and lasting social ties. Apa and Andy have known each other since they were about three years old, since their families are quite close. (Andy's the son of the late National Artist **Lindy Locsin** and **Cecilia.**)

When time came for the best man to toast the groom, Andy cracked us up as he told the guests, "To all of us, the survivors of the map." Then he enjoined everyone to enjoy the evening because going home, guests would have "to read the map backwards."

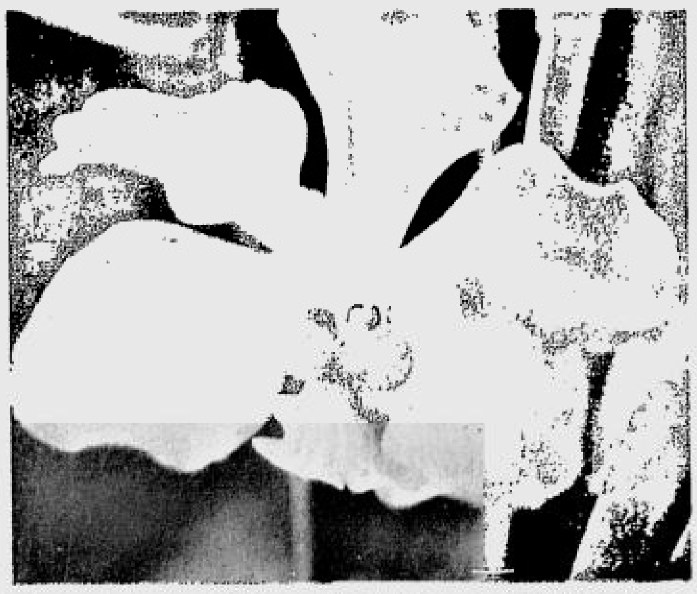
Of course, we are all survivors—not only that beautiful breezy evening, but in the elections to come. Thanks to ties that bind.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

BEHIND: Apa's Sy-quia apartment gang: Susan Roxas Oshima, Butch Perez, Feli and Kim Atienza, Mark Gary, Ana, Apa, Rafa Garchitorena, John Silva, Chiqui Mabanta, Al Dingwall, Pato Sy-quia. Front: Dodo Lim, Jun Poblador, Bon-Jin Bolinao, Neal Oshima, Su Llamado, Dixie Mabanta

NEWLYWEDS Apa and Ana Ongpin. The bride is in an Auggie Cordero alaskin gown, the groom in Bergamo swallowtail morning coat.

Orchid photos as all-purpose cards



WHEN we write our thoughts and feelings on paper, we are opening up the deepest part of our hearts and minds and sharing a part of who we are with our loved ones.

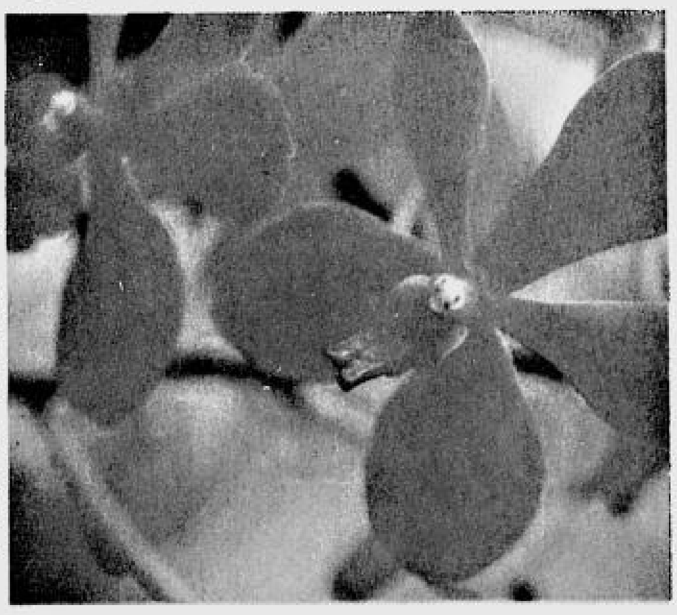
This coming Valentine's Day, the limited-edition greeting cards featuring the incredibly stunning orchid photographs of Dominique James are the perfect way to say what you want to say.

Choose from any of the six orchid varieties in different colors on the card cover to convey your emotions, to set the tone of your message, and even to express your personality type.

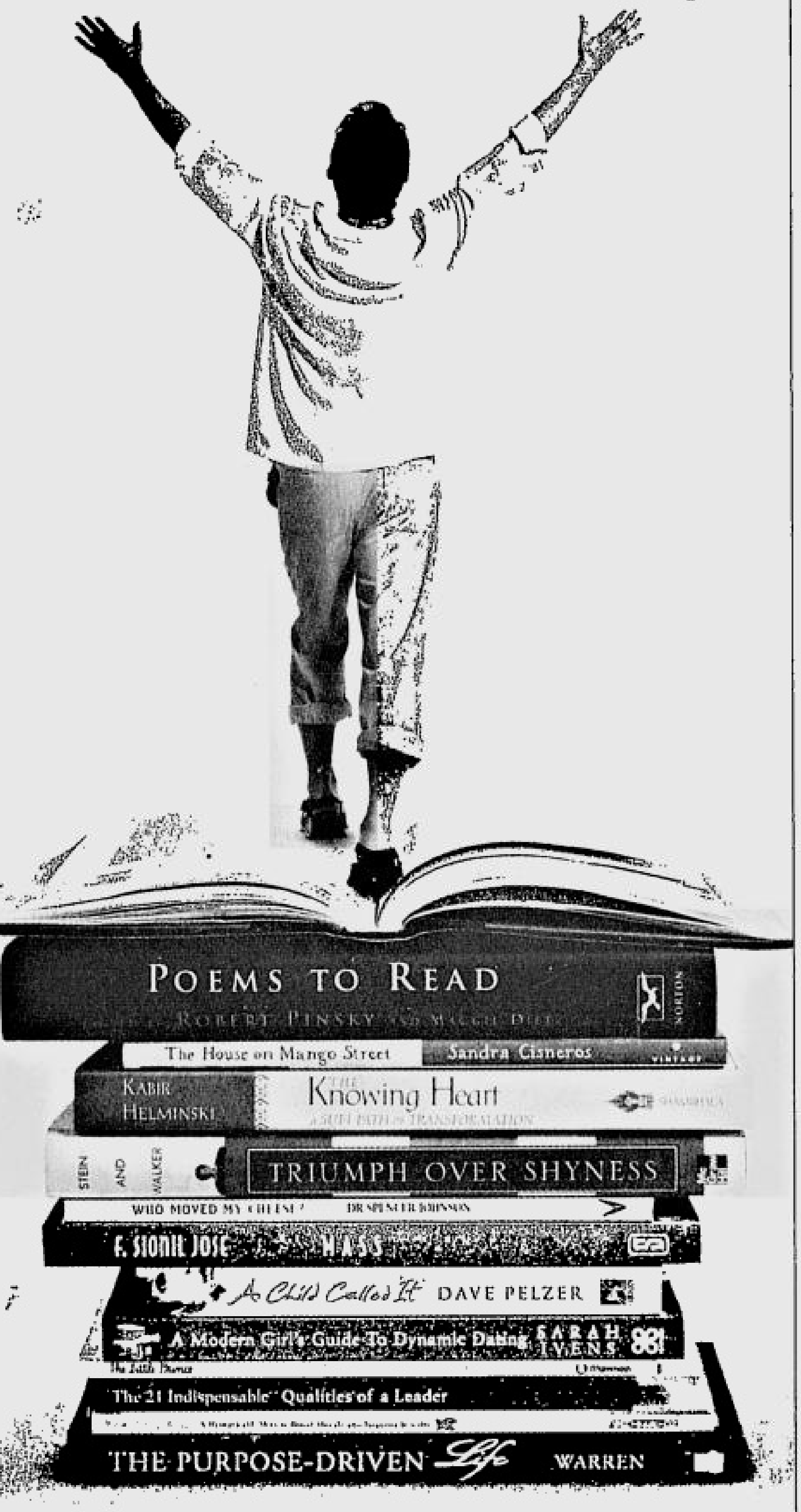
The cards are also useful for other occasions. From heartfelt pledges of one's undying love to casual keeping-in-touch greetings, from anniversary and birthday wishes to job-well-done and other congratulatory messages, from a simple thank-you note to other grand expressions of gratitude, the Dominique James greeting cards will carry your message well.

You can also collect or give as a gift the limited-edition frameable 20x30 fine art photo prints of the orchid photographs, signed and authenticated by Dominique James.

Call 4104352 or e-mail style@manila online.net. Proceeds of orders will support the works of The Library Foundation. Sponsored by Imagesetter, Fujifilm and The Studio Gallery.



Has a
BOOK changed
YOUR LIFE?



WRITE US ABOUT THE POWER OF READING AND GET THE CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN A PRINT AD.

All it takes is a word, a phrase, or even a character to evoke in us an *awakening*. *Reading* has the power to begin a ripple of change in our thoughts, in our feelings, in the way we look at life and how we live it. It's your turn to *tell your story*. Inspire us, encourage us, share with us.

Drop your entries at any Powerbooks branch or mail to
POWERBOOKS LIVE!
2nd Floor Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City 1228

All entries must be submitted/postmarked by
April 15, 2004

THE POWER OF READING

POWERBOOKS
SPECIALTY STORE
SM Megamall Bldg. A - 635-2898 to 99 • Greenbelt 4 - 757-6428 to 29 •
Alabang Town Center - 850-5662 to 63 • Glorietta III - 752-7067
Visit us at www.powerbooks.com.ph or email ibid@powerbooks.com.ph

LAS PIÑAS DOCTORS' CONCERT
The Las Piñas Medical Society Choir will be part of the first LPMS Cultural Night. The concert will be held tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Insular Life Corporate Center Auditorium, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8748515 local 471. Seated (L-R): Dr. Renato Jose, Joy Buensalido, Dr. Orpha Abrigo, Dr. Archangel de Leon, Dr. Grace Anni, Jo Nadal, Dr. Stella Jose and Dr. Danilo Constantino. Standing (L-R): Dr. Elias Nadal, Dr. Cirilo Diesmos, Dr. Adrian Buensalido, Dr. Arvin Marbibi, Dr. Gelyn Roxas-Lim, Dr. Malen Villacorta, Dr. Jocelyn Fernandez, Dr. Joannie Ocampo, Regina Clamor, Eden Estrella, Dr. Diovida Diesmos, Dr. Nelson Llanto, Dr. Emmanuel Perez and Dr. Pio Villacorta

UST hosts Catholic media forum

GOINGS ON

THE JOURNALISM Society of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of University of Santo Tomas will hold the third annual Catholic Journalism Seminar tomorrow, Feb. 7, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST campus, Manila. Theme is "Catholic Journalism by Pastoral Workers."

Resource persons will include National Book Award and Catholic Authors Award winner Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, O.P., rector of Letran College-Calamba; Edwardo Fernandez, editor of the Davao Catholic Herald, Asia's oldest Catholic newspaper; Peachy Yamsuan of the Manila Archiocese Media Office; and Msgr. Hernando Coronel of the CBCP Media Office. The seminar will especially benefit Catholic media workers and others involved in the media apostolate of the Church. Registration fee is P175. Call Jeffrey Hernaez at 0918-5280978, or Angel Mayor at 2533620. E-mail ustcathjourn@hotmail.com.

COKE RAFFLE DRAW
Ruby Nazareno from Malate, Manila, won the grand prize in Harrison Plaza and Coca-Cola's Christmas Midnight Millionaires. Nazareno's ticket was drawn by Harrison Plaza executive vice president Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel. Also present were Coke representatives Manly Marquez, Grace Mancenido and Oscar Feliciano. BFAD representative Lou Villamayor validated the winner.

EVENTS. Edsa Shangri-La presents the Replay Band on Feb. 13 at the Lobby Lounge. On Feb. 14, a dinner-concert will feature the Spirit of 67, Carmela Cuneta and Eric Obach. On Feb. 14 and 15, a dinner at Paparazzi's terrace tent will feature a string quartet. Summer Palace offers special lunch and dinner set menus. Garden Café offers a dinner buffet on Feb. 13 and the Poolside Barbecue buffet on Feb. 14. Nishiki offers Japanese set menus on Feb. 13-15. On Valentine's Day, a dinner buffet of traditional Japanese favorites. Call 6338888.

JOB FAIR. The University of Santo Tomas (UST) is holding the annual Job Fair until today at the covered walk in front of the UST Hospital.

Organized by the UST Public and Alumni Affairs Office, Jobs '04 will feature some 75 companies from various sectors catering to the varied disciplines offered at the 393-year-old Pontifical University.

RENOVATION. The National Museum Building (Old Congress) will be closed for renovation to gallery viewers starting this month.

OPENING. Live performances by film stars and music artists will mark the formal opening of Savemore Supermarket today at Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Call 8503514.

CONTEST. An on-the-spot photo contest with Lipa City as theme will be held tomorrow. Call 8137420/ 8435341.

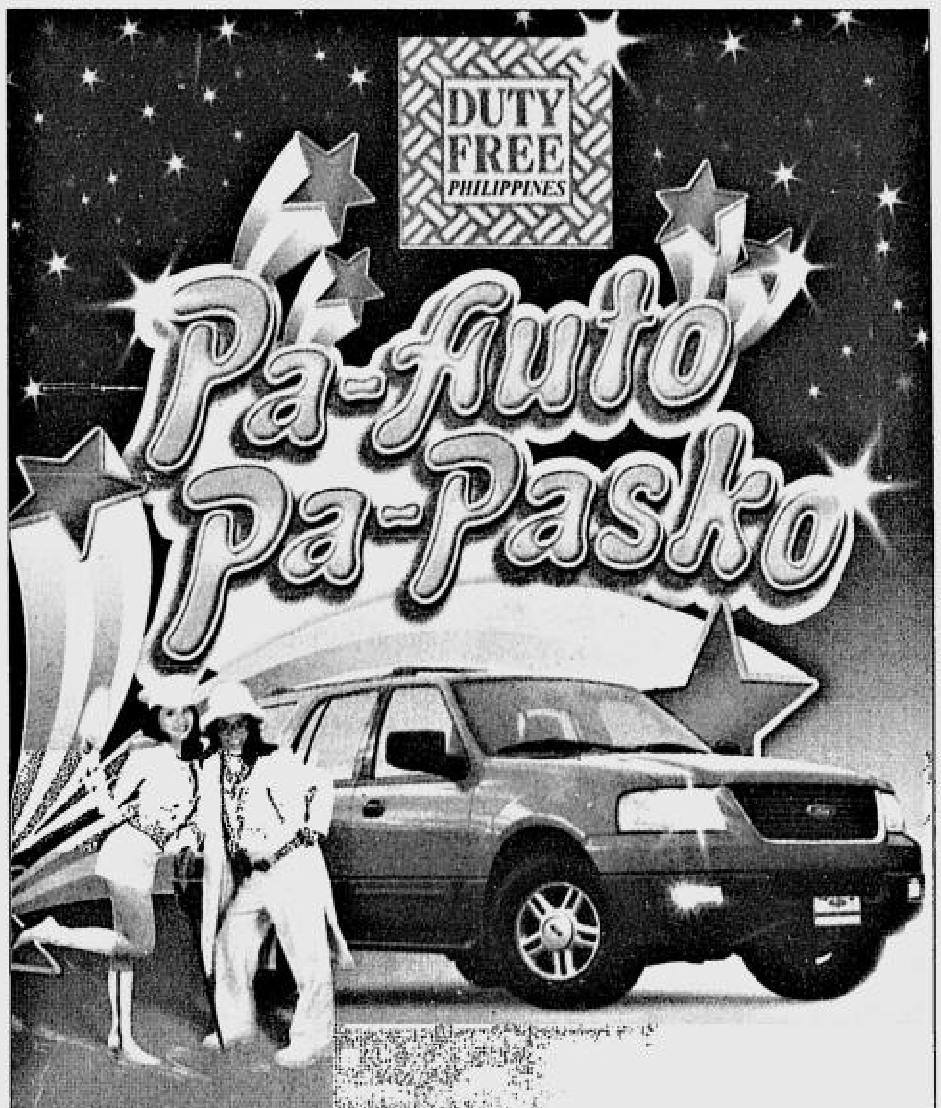
REUNION. The International Association of Business and Economic Students in the Philippines will hold a reunion of its members and trainees today, 6:30 p.m., at Outback, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 0917-5385586; 6327907; 0916-5759471; or 0917-5325663.

SEMINAR. Photoworld Manila, a series of photography seminars, will be held on Feb. 25 to March 1 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

SALE. The 11th Travel-Tour Expo will formally open today at Megatrade Halls, SM Megamall Building B, Mandaluyong. Call 5520026 to 29.

HAIR PRODUCT. Alternative solutions to falling hair and receding hairline are available at Emerging Image Inc., located at 8471 Kalayaan Ave., Makati. Consultations are free. Call 8909188/ 0880.

REUNION. Graduates of Cavite High School class 1955 are invited to register for the 50th grand reunion in January next year. Call 046-4310518;046-4310628;8137420.



GRAND RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS

2003 BRAND NEW FORD EXPEDITION :
MA. CORAZON MALIGAYA
NASUGBU, BATANGAS

1 MILLION PESO SHOPPING SPREE :
BENJAMIN SALES
SAMPALOC, MANILA

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES
Fiestamall
&WaterFront Lahug, Cebu

RAFFLE DRAW WAS HELD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A DTI REPRESENTATIVE LAST JANUARY 20, 2004 AT DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES FIESTAMALL'S ATRIUM.

Per DTI NCR permit no. 3516 series of 2003

Manapat fabricated papers, concludes Senate report

Story on PAGE A2

Baby Arenas: Kiss and tell I ain't, don't flaunt it

NAGKABUKI-NGAN NA!

By Fe Zamora
Contributor

ONLY MEN and women who "kiss and tell" would own up to having children by partners not their legal spouses, the alleged ex-paramour of former President Fidel

BABY/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **BSP chief says RP better off than Argentina**
  BUSINESS/B1
- **Estafa charges filed vs Bert Nievera, wife**
  NEWS/A2
- **AFP denies spying on Veep**
  NEWS/A2

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, February 7, 2004 ★★ 60 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 61 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Comelec throws out bid to disqualify FPJ

Voters trust Comelec, but not Abalos, says survey

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MOST VOTERS trust the Commission on Elections but not its chair, Benjamin Abalos, according to a new Social Weather Stations survey.

The January 2004 SWS pre-election survey, released last Thursday, also found that 58 percent of voters "perceived corruption" in the Comelec's contract for automated vote-counting machines which the Supreme Court voided recently.

It also said 74 percent of those surveyed oppose the postponement of the national elections scheduled for May 10.

The survey, the first of a series of SWS pre-election surveys, was conducted face-to-face with a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative registered voters on Jan. 21 and 22. It has an error margin of 3 percent for national figures and 6 percent for area personalities.

Of Abalos, only 25 percent of registered voters have "much trust" in the embattled Comelec chair, while a "dominant 32 percent" said they had "little trust" in him.

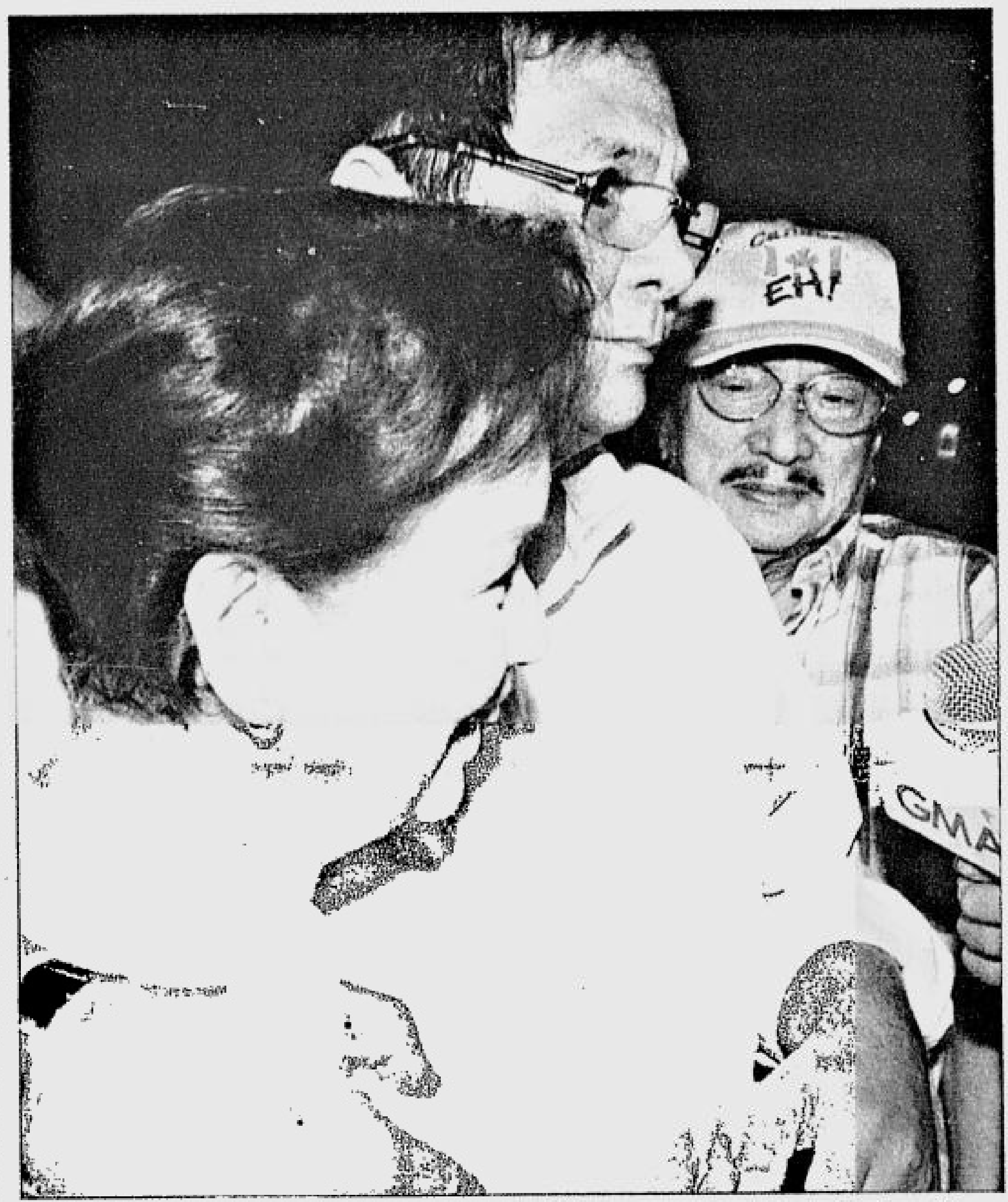
Asked how much they trusted Abalos, some 30 percent were undecided, 3 percent didn't know and 10 percent said they had never heard of him.

Legislators have called for Abalos' ouster after the high court nullified on Jan. 13 the contract that the Comelec awarded to Mega Pacific Consortium for the purchase of automated counting machines.

The adverse ruling forced the polling body to revert to the outdated manual election counting system.

The SWS said distrust of Abalos was dominant in all areas and social classes, except for the upper A-B-C classes where 29 percent said they had "much trust" and 25 percent "little trust" in him.

VOTERS/ A9



MOVIE STAR'S MOVIE STAR. Rallying to support one of their very own, the movers and shakers of the local movie industry (Dolphy in photo) form "Artista para kay FPJ" for their idol. Their man keeps a protective arm around his wife Susan as he works the room at the Quezon City Sports Club.

JOAN BONDOC

Petitioners to bring case to high court

By Martin P. Marfil and Jerome Aning

AS ANTICIPATED, the Commission on Elections dismissed the disqualification case against opposition coalition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. a second time.

Voting en banc, the election agency yesterday denied the motion for reconsideration filed by lawyer Andresito Fornier. The Comelec's First Division had dismissed the original petition on Jan. 23 for lack of merit.

Fornier lamented the "unfair" ruling and vowed to bring the case, which alleges that Poe is not a natural-born Filipino and thus is ineligible to run for President, up to the Supreme Court next week.

The opposition hailed the Comelec decision, with Sen. Edgardo Angara saying the ruling "strengthened" the findings of his Senate committee on the alleged fabrication of evidence against Poe. "I think it was an absolutely correct decision," Angara told reporters.

"I thank and congratulate the Comelec for their wisdom, courage and knowledge of the law," Sen. Vicente Sotto, Poe' s campaign manager, said. "They are a source of pride for the whole nation."

On the same day, former Sen. Raul Roco, himself a presidential candidate, waded into the Poe citizenship controversy, petitioning the Supreme Court to "resolve immediately and with dispatch" the suit filed by three lawyers questioning the Comelec's alleged lack of jurisdiction in the case.

COMELEC/ A4

Corpus to Legarda: Apology, but not quite

By Christine O. Avendaño

AN APOLOGY, but not quite.

Speaking yesterday at a Senate inquiry, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus apologized for his "foul language" in calling Sen. Loren Legarda a "political prostitute."

But the ex-military intelligence chief went on to say his "feeling" was that Legarda, running mate of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., appeared to be "waltzing with enemies of the state."

Later, asked by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to explain exactly what he meant by "political prostitute," Corpus said his "impression" was that "the good senator is sharing her bed with the extreme Right and extreme Left."

The hearing was called by the Senate committee on national defense and security

CORPUS/ A9

VICTOR CORPUS: From Left to Right she has shared her bed.

JESS YUSON

Palace firm on decision to clear Perez

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG yesterday stood pat on its decision to exonerate former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez of any wrongdoing, saying it was the President's prerogative to accept or reject any recommendation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

The Palace decision to clear Perez, a close ally of the President's, predictably drew the ire of the opposition, with deposed President Joseph Estrada accusing the Macapagal administration of a double standard of justice.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign wasted no time in making a political announcement. At a briefing, presidential campaign spokesperson Michael T. Defensor confirmed that Perez has been certified as the administration candidate for Batangas governor in the May elections.

Estrada, who is detained on plunder charges, said the decision to reject the PAGC's recommendation that criminal charges be filed against Perez reflected badly on the administration's high-profile lifestyle check.

"The Palace decision on the case of Nani Perez reduces this government's lifestyle check program to a big joke," Estrada said, speaking from his detention quarters in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

Estrada, who never stopped

PALACE/ A6

Pinoy gets 10 years for cop's death

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

NEW JERSEY—The Filipino-American defendant rose, said he was sorry, and wept.

Then Hudson County Judge Kevin Callahan issued the sentence: a maximum of 10 years and six months in jail for beating a police officer with a pipe, leading to his death three years ago.

In a courtroom early this month, Benjamin Gavina, 45, was found to have struck police officer Domenick Infantes while the latter was grappling with his brother, Alfredo Gavina. Benjamin's lawyer, Alan Bowman, claimed at the trial that Infantes had attacked Alfredo and was

PINOY/ A4

A SEARING emotional moment for Doy Laurel's widow, Celia Diaz-Laurel, as she receives the Philippine flag from President Macapagal during state funeral rites for her husband on Friday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

VAL HANDUMON

Doy raised to 'heights beyond his expectation'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FULL STATE honors and the conferment of the prestigious Order of Lakandula Rank of Bayani award, which marked the funeral of former Vice President Salvador Laurel yesterday, elevated him "to heights beyond his greatest expectations," according to his widow Celia Diaz-Laurel.

"You have made him a hero, an icon, a legend," Diaz-Laurel said in remarks at the noontime funeral for the former assemblyman, senator and foreign secretary whose final resting place is right next to that of another ex-senator and former foreign secretary, Blas Ople, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

Ople was also given a state funeral and a posthumous Lakandula Award late last year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo led the mourners who joined the family in the funeral procession that started from the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park to the Libingan ng mga Bayani at 11:15 a.m.

Top government and military officials, members of the diplomatic corps and Laurel's relatives and friends joined the march. Former President Corazon Aquino was noticeably absent.

The state funeral formally started with a 19-gun salute—six cannons firing alternately—to welcome the arrival at the cemetery of the horse-drawn carriage bearing the urn containing Laurel's ashes.

An Army battalion and brass band in gala uniform marched in front of the carriage as a shower of red-and-white rose petals dropped from a helicopter.

A shower of rose petals again

DOY RAISED/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FrontPage
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/07/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Roco dares Comelec: Sue me, sue GMA, too

By TJ Burgonio
and Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Raul Roco yesterday dared the Commission on Elections to file charges against him for putting up posters ahead of the official campaign period.

"I don't care if they file charges against me. They should also file charges against (President) Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo)," said the standard bearer of Alyansa ng Pag-asa, in an ambush interview in Manila.

The Comelec yesterday asked Ms Macapagal, Roco, Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson to explain why they should not be disqualified from the presidential race for premature campaigning.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the poll agency has written the candidates for their explanation and asked them to remove their campaign materials within three days.

"There was no subpoena, no summons. They will just be asked to explain," Abalos said.

Roco said if there was a candidate who should be cited for electioneering, it was the President.

"It's Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who is guilty of electioneering. Since Oct. 5, she has been using the funds... the resources of the government. Then she declared she was running for President. That was premature campaigning," he said.

Roco, together with his running mate Hermie Aquino and their senatorial slate, spoke at a student forum at San Beda College.

Roco said Ms Macapagal's campaign posters have sprouted everywhere in the guise of government posters.

"Look at all the posters–WOW Philippines, DTI, DENR, Rice. She's there. That is misuse of government resources," he told reporters after the forum.

Roco noted that there were flaws in the "rulings and regulations" of the Comelec regarding posters, which was why he could not be held liable for putting up posters and coming up with a TV infomercial. He declined to discuss this, however, as he was rushing to another speaking engagement at UP Manila.

When pressed what he planned to do with his posters, he said: "I only have a few. For every one I have, Gloria has 100." *With an AFP report*

Diesel discounts sought

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSUMER and Oil Price Watch is asking oil companies to provide public transport groups a discount on diesel prices of at least 30 centavos per liter to prevent them from increasing bus and jeepney fares.

COPW chair Raul T. Concepcion told a press briefing that an increase in transport fares was also unlikely because public vehicles are allowed to import spare parts duty-free.

Concepcion said they would ask the country's two oil refiners, Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., to give discounts of 30 centavos or more per liter on diesel prices to transport groups.

Early this week, oil companies raised pump prices of diesel by 30 centavos per liter and gasoline by 60 centavos.

Concepcion said he would meet with leaders of the transport sector to persuade them not to push through with their fare hike petitions before the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board conducted a hearing on Feb. 17.

Jeepney groups are asking for a P1.50 increase in the basic fare while bus groups want a hike of up to P2.

Manapat fabricated papers–Senate report

By Christine O. Avendano, Tarra Quismundo and Martin P. Marfil

THE SENATE committee on constitutional amendments yesterday recommended the filing of charges against former National Archives chief Ricardo Manapat and the disbarment of lawyer Victorino Fornier for perjury and falsification of public documents against opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe. Jr.

In its report to the Senate, the committee concluded that the documents presented by Fornier were fabrications just like the microfilm rolls that Manapat had claimed he discovered and contained Fornier's documents against Poe.

"The questioned documents are mere fabrications that have been clothed with the life and appearance of authentic, genuine and existing documents by Dir. Manapat, through computer technology and by the simple expedient of certifications that they are in the custody and possession of the Archives," the Senate report said.

It also noted that the documents presented by Fornier "do not exist in the official inventory of the official depositories" such as the Archives' Master List of Civil Register Records, the Local Civil Registrar of San Carlos Pangasinan and the Archives itself.

Aside from falsification of public documents and perjury, Manapat will also be charged with incriminatory machination, theft, infidelity in the custody of documents, violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and obstruction of justice.

The Senate also recommended that Manapat be placed under the immigration bureau's watch list and for a hold departure order to be issued against him to prevent him from leaving the country.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara, also recommended that disbarment charges be filed against Fornier for violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Fornier had sought Poe's disqualification from the presidential race, claiming he was not a natural-born Filipino citizen.

The report of the Senate committee, signed by nine senators, was forwarded to the Senate yesterday.

Angara said his committee concluded that the documents of Fornier and the microfilm rolls were all fabrications based on the testimony of three Archives employees.

The employees, Emman Llamera, Remmel Talabis and Vicelyn Tarin, testified during a Senate inquiry that they were asked by Manapat to fabricate documents relating to the birth certificate of Poe's father, Allan Fernando Poe; the marriage certificate of Poe and a certain Paulita Gomez and the bigamy charge filed by Gomez against Poe.

Two employees of Florofoto also testified that Manapat instructed them to put the documents handled by the three Archives employees in the microfilm.

The Senate committee sought adequate protection for the Archives and Florofoto employees who exposed the forgeries. It also sought a Senate resolution commending them for their courage.

The Senate committee report was signed by Senators Angara, Sotto, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Tessie Aquino Oreta, Loren Legarda, Serge Osmeña, Juan Flavier, Rodolfo Biazon and Ramon Magsaysay.

In response to the Senate recommendation, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday placed Manapat on its watchlist.

Manapat was also summoned yesterday to appear before a Manila Prosecutor to answer charges of perjury, falsification of public documents and obstruction of justice filed against him by three Archives employees.

Manila prosecutor Lolita Rodas has sent a subpoena to Manapat, requiring him to appear at her Manila City Hall office at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19 and 26.

The three complainants— Talabis, Llamero and Tarin— filed the charges before the Manila Prosecutor's Office on Jan. 27.

The Archives employees alleged that Manapat faked documents to make it appear that Poe was not a natural-born Filipino and thus, is disqualified from running for president in the May elections.

Whodunit: PAGC body disowns Pleyto story

By Armand N. Nocum

OFFICIALS of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission are looking for the source of the press statement which announced Malacañang's dismissal of Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto.

The two-page statement, which bore the words "Proposed Newspaper Write-Up," had been faxed to newspapers and television stations on Wednesday. It said that Pleyto was found to have bribed two officials at the Office of the Ombudsman in exchange for clearance in graft charges, solicited money from contractors, had an illicit affair with a woman "whom he gave a brand-new Mercedes Benz and BMW," and for three years, failed to file his statement of assets and liabilities.

PAGC Chair Dario Rama said: "The facts are true, but they did not come from us," explaining that the law which created their office prohibits them from divulging information on officials under investigation for graft, unless the Palace says so.

PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar said they were only able to prove the charge involving Pleyto's SAL, but failed to establish the veracity of the other charges.

Both Rama and Baltazar said they do not know the identities of the Ombudsman officials allegedly bribed by Pleyto.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Pleyto for comment but he was unavailable.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION
SEARCH FOR
YOUTH
AMBASSADORS
NIPPON MARU

The National Youth Commission (NYC) invites all Filipino youth to apply as Philippine representatives to the 31st Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP), a youth cultural exchange program sponsored by the Japanese Government, in cooperation with the ASEAN-member countries.

The NYC will choose twenty eight (28) participating youth and one (1) National Leader.

Delegates will visit the participating countries and will be involved in various activities such as educational tours, interaction with local youth, courtesy calls, and homestay.

Qualified youth delegates must be 18 to 30 years old, single, of good moral character, active officer/member of a youth organization, physically and mentally fit, preferably a first-time international traveler, must not have received an NYC-funded international travel, has strong background in history, geography, culture, and current events in the Philippines, ASEAN, and Japan; and must be a resident of the region represented for at least one year.

Qualifications for National Leader are as follows: must be 31 to 45 years old, former Participating Youth who are working in government or government employees in supervisory positions, physically and mentally fit to travel, of good moral character and knowledgeable in ASEAN and international concerns. Experience in youth-related affairs will be an advantage. The National Leader will serve as government representative in the program.

Interested parties may send an e-mail to nyc@youth.net.ph or visit the NYC office to obtain application forms and the list of application requirements. Only complete requirements will be entertained.

Send complete application requirements personally or by mail on or before February 28, 2004 to:

SSEAYP Secretariat
National Youth Commission
4/F Bookman Bldg., 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02)781-1406 * (02)781-9401 * (02)781-2386 local 115 or 113
E-mail: nyc@youth.net.ph * Website: www.youth.net.ph
Contact Person: Mr. Pol B. Maleniza II

Estafa charges filed vs Bert Nievera, wife

By Leila B. Salaverria

SINGER Robert Nievera and his wife Carolina were charged yesterday before the Department of Justice for failing to pay P19 million to an investor in their restaurant business and for issuing securities without the proper license.

The Nieveras, franchisees of the Country Waffles chain in the Philippines, were charged with syndicated estafa, violation of the Securities Regulation Code and violation of the bouncing check act. Included in the charges were Carolina Nievera's children from a previous marriage: Caroline Soller, Januario Soller and Charissa Orfrecio.

The case was filed by the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Organized Crime Division under lawyer Ferdinand Lavin based on the complaint of businesswoman Monina Nepomuceno.

In November 2002, Nepomuceno invested P14 million in Country Waffles, which she paid in installments. She was promised an interest of 6.5 percent a month. The checks issued to her by the Nieveras were good up until November last year, when checks whose amounts ranged from P1.2 million to P2 million started to bounce.

Nepomuceno's investment was supposed to finance the Alabang branch of Country Waffles. She is asking P19 million from the Nieveras as payment for her investment plus interest.

Lavin said that although Robert Nievera is not an incorporator of Country Waffles, he was included in the charges based on testimonial evidence. Robert's prominence in the entertainment industry was one tactic allegedly used to lure in investors, as the famed singer was always present whenever incorporators met with potential clients.

The Nieveras failed to heed the subpoenas sent by the NBI. They had been given until Thursday to appear if they wanted the charges deferred, but none of them came. A sixth suspect, Alberto Buenviaje, was not charged because he had sent a lawyer who asked for more time to file a counter affidavit, said NBI agent Angelo Zarzoso.

Once arrest warrants for the Nieveras are issued, the NBI would immediately initiate extradition proceedings against them. The couple had reportedly fled to the United States shortly before Christmas last year.

NBI officials earlier said that the Country Waffles case can be called an "investment scam," which is different from a pyramiding scam.

Military denies spying on Veep

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday denied accusations that it was spying on Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

"This allegation is not true. We are not spying on the Vice President. In fact, we respect him and there is no effort to spy on him," military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero told defense reporters yesterday.

Guingona the other day accused the AFP of putting him under surveillance. He called on the military to respect his office which is also part of the administration.

The vice president, who earlier resigned as president of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, is reportedly being wooed by opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. to become one of the movie actor's key advisers.

Guingona's name was also linked to the recent destabilization attempt by Kawal Filipino, a group of disgruntled junior military officers.

Lucero also denied that the AFP was spying on Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) secretary general Pastor Boy Saycon, whom it branded as a threat to national security.

The military has tagged Saycon as one of the key leaders behind the Kawal Pilipino incident. Saycon is facing sedition charges.

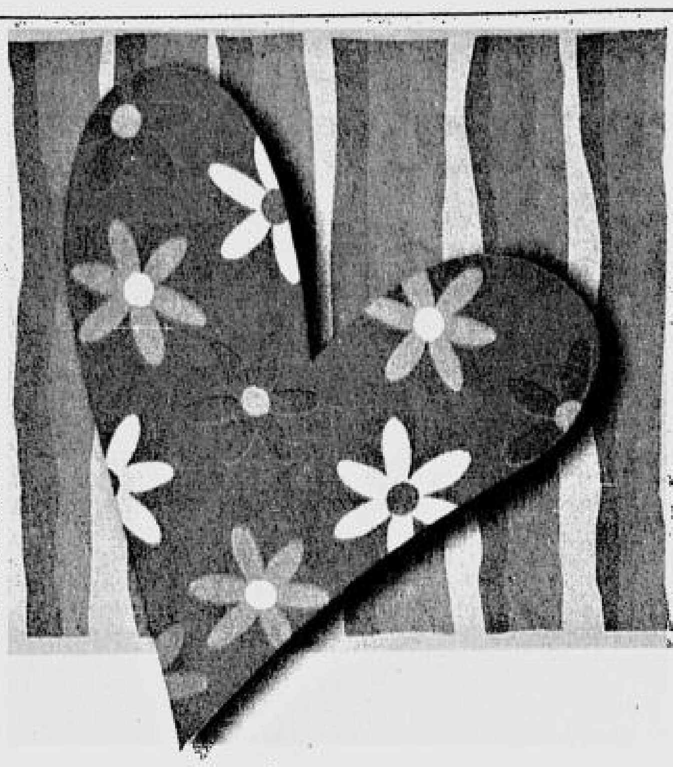
"We have not ordered any unit even to monitor the movements of Saycon," Lucero said.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia also denied that the armed forces was spying on Saycon.

"On the part of the AFP, we will not do things like that, things that would affect his family. I don't know if he has actual experience with this or he is just imagining it," Garcia said yesterday.

The other day, Saycon said members of his family were being followed by the suspicious-looking individuals.

Saycon had said that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as commander-in-chief of the AFP was to blame if anything happened to him or members of his family. *Alcuin Papa*

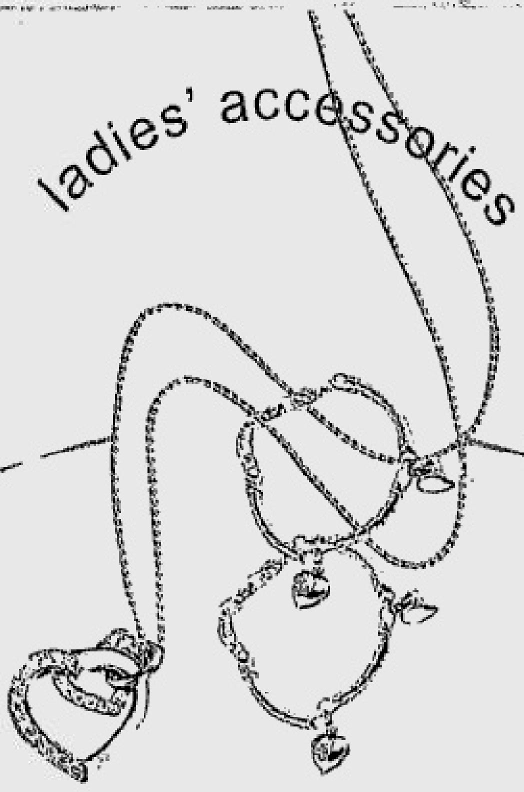


HAPPY Valentine 2 ALL!

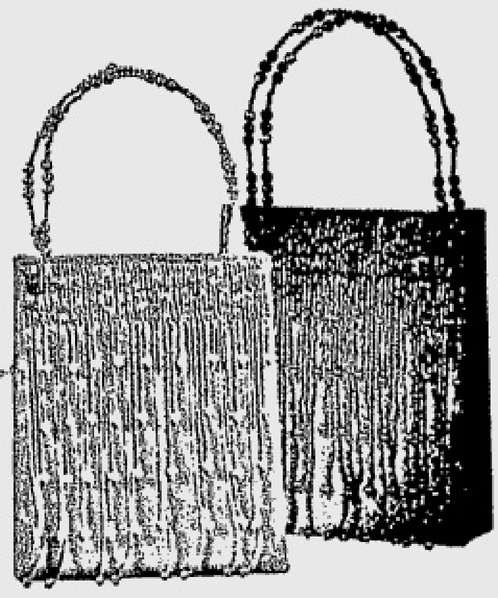
stationery

Special Wishes
For All of You
Valentine
I Love You Like Crazy

ladies' accessories



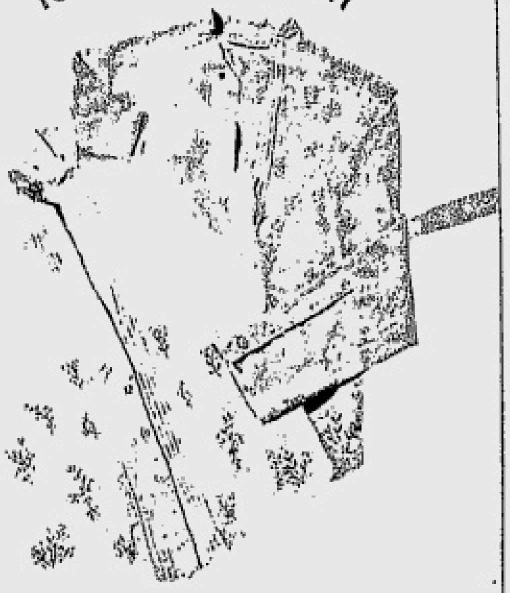
bags



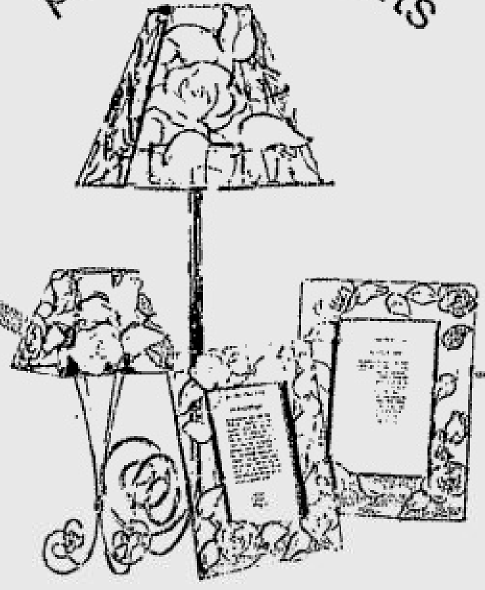
men's wear

watsons

ladies' wear



philippine crafts



snack exchange

FERRERO ROCHER
FERRERO ROCHER

homeworld

luggage

men's shoes

We've got it all for you!

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • BICUTAN • CAGAYAN DE ORO • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO

Comelec throws out bid to disqualify FPJ

From page A1

In a three-page petition-in-intervention, Roco said that by reason of "compelling public interest," the case filed by lawyers Ma. Jeanette Tecson, Felix Desiderio and Zoilo Antonio Velez must be resolved soon.

Five commissioners

In an eight-page resolution, the five remaining election commissioners ruled that it had the power to rule on citizenship issues that are incidental to disqualification cases.

This power has never been questioned by the Supreme Court itself, they noted.

"We therefore clarify that the First Division—in stating that the commission is not the proper forum to declare with finality the citizenship of respondent—is merely prefacing its decision with the time-honored principle that there is no one court or body that judicially declares the citizenship of any person," the commission said.

Panganiban ruling

The commissioners based their decision in part on an earlier ruling of Supreme Court Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban's, who had written that citizenship cases are always decided in favor of the claimant.

"... In any case, the leaning, in questions of citizenship, should always be in favor of (its) claimant ... Accordingly, the same should be construed in favor of private respondent who claims to be a natural-born citizen," the Comelec said, quoting Panganiban.

"Wherefore, in the light of the foregoing disposition, the commission en banc hereby denies the instant motion," the election body concluded.

The decision was signed by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioners Rufino Javier, Mehol Sadain, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. who issued a separate concurring opinion.

Case parameters

Because they retired on Feb. 2, ex-Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Ralph Lantion did not join in the decision.

The Comelec en banc laid down the parameters of the case, saying that it had the mandate to settle the issue since the petition to deny due course or cancel a certificate of candidacy, based on material misrepresentation, falls under Section 78 of the Omnibus Election Code.

"Undeniably, the question of the citizenship of respondent falls within the requirement of materiality under Section 78," the commission said.

"However, proof of misrepresentation with a deliberate attempt to mislead, must still be established," it said, adding that the candidate must have known or have been aware of the falsehood of the entry in his certificate.

But in his three-page separate opinion, Tuason disagreed with the First Division, saying that it was a settled rule that only a legitimate minor child follows the citizenship of his father.

"Settlement of the said issue then is crucial in the determination of respondent's citizenship in direct proceedings before the proper forum," Tuason said.

'Legal but unpopular'

Fornier said the Comelec apparently did not want to make a "legal but unpopular decision."

"The decision is unfair. The decision was not in accordance with law. The decision was not in accordance with facts ... with jurisprudence. So I would say that the decision was unfair," he said.

"The Comelec abdicated its duty to decide the question, most probably, and I hope it was not because it did not want to make a legal but unpopular decision," he added.

But this early, Fornier said that he would raise the issue again before the Supreme Court by next week.

"We do not want that a person who is not a natural-born Filipino would have his name in the official ballot," he said.

Roco intervention

In his petition, Roco argued that an early decision would be fair to all concerned.

"If Poe (were) unqualified for the position he seeks, an early judgment informs the voters that their vote for such disqualified candidate will be a wasted vote. Consequently, the people are informed that to effect their overwhelming desire for political change, they must vote for the only qualified alternative," Roco said.

But if Poe were really a qualified candidate, then he deserved constitutional protection from all forms of harassment and discrimination, Roco said, adding that the early resolution of doubts on Poe's qualifications was "a matter of fairness and constitutional necessity."

On Feb. 3, the high court took cognizance of the case and ordered the Comelec, the Office of the Solicitor General, Poe's counsel, and the complainant in the citizenship case, lawyer Victorino Fornier, Andresito's brother, to submit their comment within 10 days.

SC is sole judge

Like the three lawyer petitioners, said he also believes that the Supreme Court, sitting en banc, is the sole judge of all contests relating to the qualifications of the president, as stated in Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Private lawyers Tecson and Desiderio, and Velez, president of the Intergrated Bar of the Philippines Misamis Oriental chapter, said the commission did not have the right to dismiss the citizenship case against Poe last Jan. 23.

The petitioners said Comelec should not have made a ruling in the first place and should just have thrown out the petition due to lack of jurisdiction.

Early resolution

Roco said that if the case were meritorious and if Poe's questionable citizenship disqualified him from running for the presidency, "the public good is served by presenting only qualified candidates for the electorate and preventing acrimonious disputes and confusion during and after the elections."

An early resolution of the doubt "would prevent abuse of judicial processes to frustrate or confuse the electorate's choice of their leaders," Roco added. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

A SEND-OFF fit for a hero: President Macapagal marches with Celia Laurel and other family members of former Vice President Salvador Laurel from the Santuario de San Antonio to the Libingan ng mga Bayani. VAL HANDUMON

Monument for Doy, father

THE GOVERNMENT of the city of Manila will honor the memory of the late Vice President Salvador Laurel and his father, the late President Jose P. Laurel Sr., by erecting a statue of the two Filipino leaders in front of the Laurel Foundation building on Roxas Boulevard, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said yesterday.

"With the permission of the Laurel family, we intend to put up a monument to these two Filipino leaders who devoted their lives to serving our country and our people," Atienza said at the necrological service at the Santuario de San Antonio church yesterday.

Atienza noted that Laurel was a Manileño, having been born in a house on Peñafrancia Street in Paco, Manila.

He said erecting a statue of Laurel along one of Manila's historic boulevards would be a fitting tribute to the former assemblyman and senator who led the opposition during the darkest days of martial law.

"When the nation was in darkness, we needed a beacon to provide light and guidance to the opposition. Doy assumed that role, and though many tried, no one was able to measure up to his leadership during those crucial times in our country's history," Atienza said.

He expressed regret that Laurel did not get the opportunity to lead the country as he stepped aside in favor of Corazon Aquino, the widow of the martyred Benigno Aquino, as the opposition candidate in the 1986 snap presidential elections.

"But being a true patriot, he set aside his desire to vie for the presidency to preserve the unity of the opposition. Had he not made that sacrifice, we would probably still be fighting for the democratic rights that we now enjoy," Atienza said.

Doy raised to 'heights beyond ...

From page A1

fell on the mourners as the urn was lowered to the ground at high noon, accompanied by another gun salute—three volleys from seven riflemen firing at the same time over the grave.

The pallbearers then gave the flag which was draped over the rose-colored arc where the urn was placed to the President who handed the flag to the widow.

'The Impossible Dream'

A special rite for the family followed, with Laurel's wife, children, grandchildren and relatives throwing white roses into the grave to strains of Laurel's favorite song "The Impossible Dream."

Relatives also set free an eagle and about 10 doves.

At the necrological service earlier at the Santuario de San Antonio church, former President Ramos delivered the eulogy, extolling Laurel as "a true Filipino who died with his boots on."

Recalling the many words of praise for Laurel since his death last week, Ramos said "not enough will ever be said to honor this patriotic Filipino."

"He was a nationalist of the highest order," he said.

Ramos noted how Laurel's public service and personal advocacies encompassed three major turning points in the country's evolution. These included the people power uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship in February 1986, the independence struggle against Spain and the Philippine-American war, Ramos said.

Service without pay

Laurel encompassed the last two dates as chair of the National Centennial Commission, which undertook the nationwide preparations for the 100th anniversary of Philippine independence in 1998.

"Vice President Laurel agreed to head the NCC on condition that he would serve without pay because the position would be his last labor of love for our country and people," said Ramos who ended his eulogy by putting on a bemedalled cap and saluting Laurel.

Total vindication

Responding for the family, Diaz-Laurel thanked Ramos, her husband's "boyhood friend and neighbor," for extolling his achievements in the centennial commission, saying his words would "earn for Doy his total vindication."

Last year, Laurel was charged with graft for alleged irregularities in the award of the Centennial Expo contract that increased the project's budget from P248 million to P1.6 billion.

Diaz-Laurel said that her husband's personal motto *"Ang bayan higit sa lahat* (Country above all)" was not only a slogan but a blueprint of his life.

"He served his country in the best way he could. But the warrior who has fought so many battles is now tired and now rests," she said. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

DZMM
GMA
ABS-CBN

THE PETITIONER, Andresito Fornier, is not giving up just yet. He says he will pursue his disqualification case against Fernando Poe Jr. all the way to the Supreme Court. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Pinoy gets 10 years for cop's death

From page A1

choking him, prompting Benjamin to act in self-defense.

Acquitted

But Hudson County Assistant Prosecutor Michael D'Andrea said Infantes was trying to defuse a fight when the Gavinas hit him with a pipe.

Alfredo Gavina, 42, walked to freedom last Oct. 30. A jury acquitted the brothers of murder, but later found Benjamin guilty of reckless manslaughter, resisting arrest, and a weapons charge.

Cruel, barbaric

"I'm sorry for this tragedy," Benjamin said before he was sentenced. "I didn't mean to hurt anybody. I didn't mean to do violent crime. We only wanted to protect ourselves. I'm sorry for my family. Now I'm suffering."

But Callahan described the crime as cruel and barbaric, and said the maximum penalty was necessary to reflect the gravity of what had happened.

"You devastated two families that night, but your own family will have you someday," the judge told Benjamin.

He also sentenced Benjamin to six months in jail for resisting arrest and 18 months on the weapons charge. The 18 months will be served concurrently with the other sentences.

Benjamin may be paroled in six years because he has been imprisoned for more than two years. But the Gavina family has announced plans to appeal.

Raising funds

The Filipino-American community in New Jersey has been raising funds to pay for the Gavinas' legal fees amounting to more than $300,000. The family has sold its three-story house to meet part of the costs.

The crime occurred on the night of July 4, 2002, when sons of the Gavinas were playing with firecrackers near their garage.

A guest at a neighbor's party, Brian Belka, yelled at the children. This led to a confrontation—and eventually a fight—between him and the Gavinas.

Infantes, a friend of Belka's, rushed to the scene. Police witnesses said he was showing his badge when he was attacked.

But it was later found that Infantes was drunk when he attacked Alfredo Gavina, and that Benjamin Gavina hit him on the head with a pipe.

Infantes was rushed to a hospital with a fractured skull. He died two days later, after being taken off life support.

'Forever damaged'

Those present at the trial shed tears as members of the Gavina and Infantes families testified with emotion.

"My life is unbearable. It's forever damaged by Benjamin Gavina," the widow Betty Infantes said, adding that the latter should be jailed for life.

She also said she did not know if she made the right decision in having her husband taken off life support at the hospital.

Infantes' mother Carol described him as a sweet son and a loving husband to Betty. She said it was not right that her son, a respected law enforcer, had suffered.

Unfair verdict

But Gladys Gavina, daughter of Benjamin, said they, too, were suffering.

"Each day my father is in prison, a piece of us dies," she said. "Benjamin is a peaceful man who got caught in a tragic accident. I ask for your compassion."

The Gavinas said the verdict was unfair.

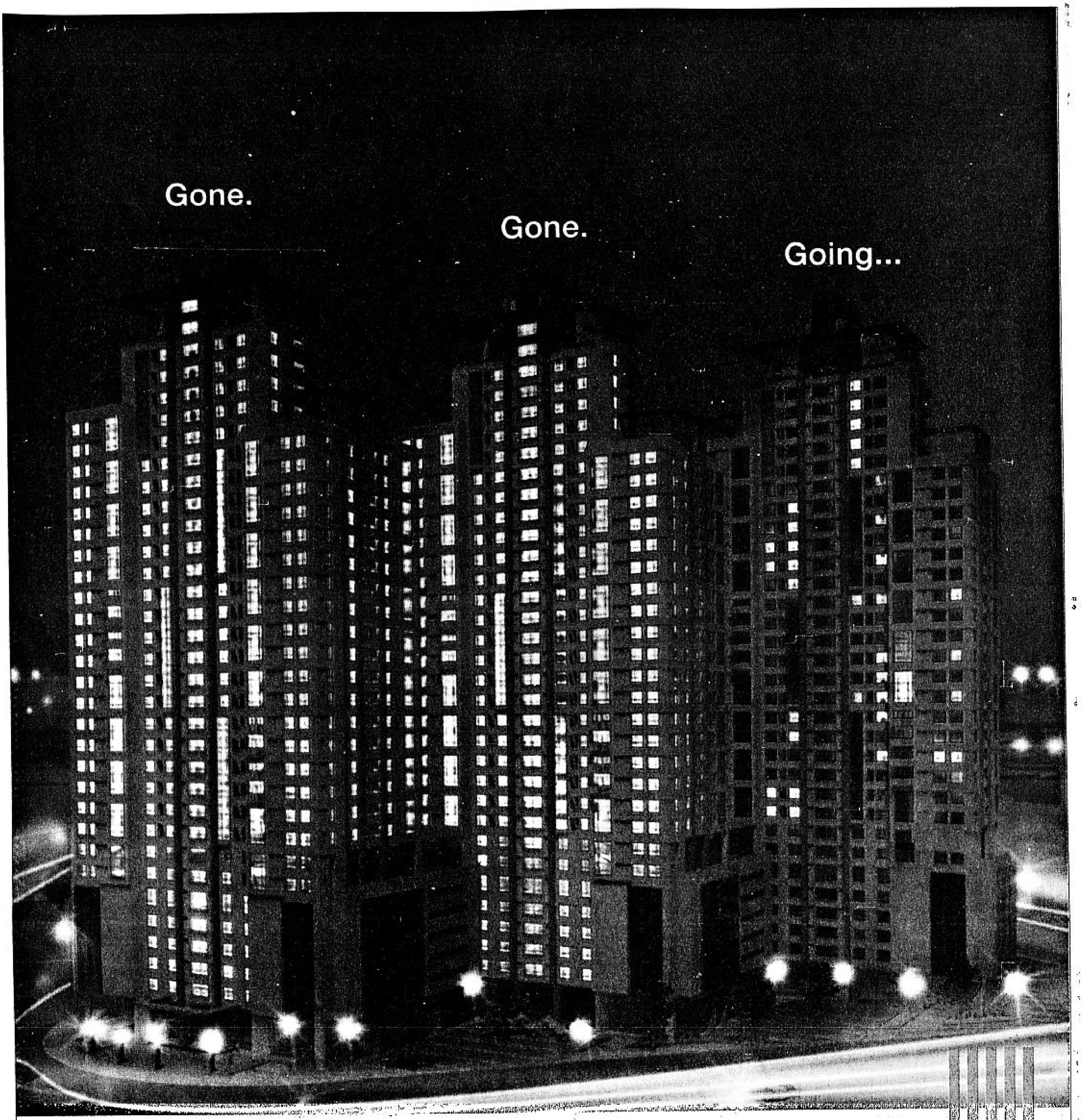
Nora Gavina, a sister-in-law of Benjamin's, said he had merely acted in self-defense because Infantes was choking Alfredo.

She also said they had been praying for Infantes, and appealed for forgiveness from his family.

"The decision is not right," said Gladys Gavina. "The police officer was drunk. The judge didn't consider our family."

But Benjamin's mother Quirino Gavina, who has been praying the rosary every day for her son, remains hopeful.

"We still believe that God will take care of the case and help us," she said.

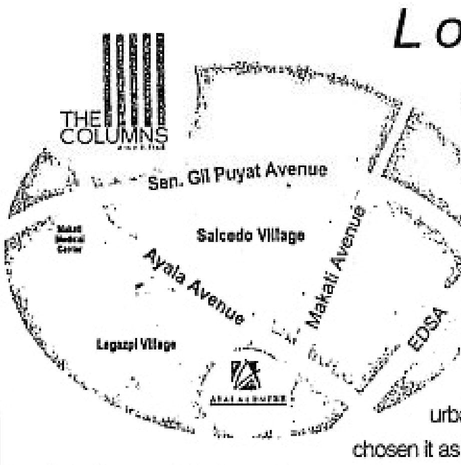


Tower 1 and Tower 2 have enjoyed a quick sell-out. The great news is, we're opening up Tower 3 to buyers! Here's your last chance to live just a few steps from your work, shopping, and hang-out places. THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue is rising right at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, the ideal address for young, urban achievers who want to live just a few steps from everything.

THE
COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

TOWER 3 NOW SELLING As low as ₱13,000/month, no downpayment

Location. Location. Location.



Strategically situated at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (Buendia), The Columns, Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations Inc.'s landmark development, has come to redefine urban living. Many have already chosen it as their city address, attracted by its combination of convenience, relaxation, and prestige.

It's the ideal first home for young urban achievers who want to live a few steps from everything. Now, with Tower 3 opening for sale, it's also the last chance to embrace The Columns experience.

Garden in the City

At The Columns, Ayala Avenue, nature communes with urban living. Its open design creates a relaxing environment both in the towers and on the ground. The green Zen-like gardens that adorn the Grand Lobbies of the three towers soothe residents and guests alike.

In the Towers

Each tower offers thirty storeys, twenty-three residential floors, rising on a continuous seven-story podium. The towers are angled to catch bright morning sunshine and avoid afternoon heat. Studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units offer maximized space for the urban lifestyle, with plentiful natural light and ventilation—a prized rarity in residential condos. Splendid views stretch from the Makati skyline to Manila Bay, and selected units on each floor offer bay windows and balconies.

The Columns Experience

By integrating its amenities with its entire lifestyle, The Columns transforms itself into a relaxing refuge that openly encourages the feeling of a real neighborhood. At the seventh floor of the podium, The Recreational Club spans all three towers, and serves as the club and meeting place for this vertical village. Two pools, a fitness center, a game room, function halls, a broad outdoor patio, and a day care center and playground fit the needs of every Columns resident. A jogging path and barbecue areas offer features uncommon to condos. It's all about creating community.

The Ground Floor of The Columns offers outdoor cafes and dining spots clustered around three landscaped plazas. With its quaint shops and al fresco lifestyle, the Ground Floor aims to be a destination in itself at its end of Ayala Avenue.

Live a few steps from everything. For young, dynamic, and energetic Individuals, The Columns, Ayala Avenue offers it all: location, quality, reputation, and prestige. It's a chance that's not to be missed. Tower 3 sales are now open.

BY COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

AYALA LAND

Model units are available for viewing.

e-mail us at cil-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more information.Call tel nos. 750-0484 and 750-0471 HLURB License to Sell Nos. 07183, 06252 and 08176

Palace firm on decision to clear Perez

From page A1

raising a howl on the Perez case, which revolved around the ex-secretary's issuance of a controversial memorandum, said it was now clear that the government's lifestyle check and anti-graft program targeted only middle level officials in the government.

"There are two kinds of justice system in government," he said in the phone interview. Justice has been swift in cases involving low-ranking officials, but slow—if not non-existent—when members of the Cabinet are involved.

"*Puro sila* cover-up (It's all a cover-up)," he said of the graft complaints filed against Perez and other administration officials.

A militant group even called for the PAGC's abolition.

One percent

But PAGC chair Dario Rama defended his agency's record. "One setback does not prove that the agency is useless," Rama told the INQUIRER.

He said Malacañang reversed the PAGC's recommendation in only one percent of the 850 cases forwarded to the Palace.

Asked whether the commissioners felt bad about the Palace decision, Rama replied: "We've done our job."

He said the commissioners were comfortable with the way Malacañang's committee of peers reviewed their decisions.

Of the 850 cases, he said, 57 were pending resolution review at the Palace, while 40 remain pending in their office.

RAMA: The agency is not useless.

PEREZ: GMA's bet for Batangas gov.

$2-M case not yet resolved

PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar assured the public that the matter of Perez's controversial memorandum was just a minor issue and that the "important issues" in the extortion case are still being heard in the courts.

"He could still be liable for it in other cases. The $2 million extortion case is not yet resolved. All complainers should realize it's not yet over until it's over," she said.

She said the reversal on the memorandum issue was not a "blanket clean bill of health" for Perez, as far as the extortion issue alleged by ex-Congressman Mark Jimenez was concerned.

The extortion case remains pending at the Ombudsman's office and the Department of Justice, she said, adding that there was a strong chance the case would prosper because Swiss authorities said they were willing to provide the government with documents relative to Perez' accounts in Swiss banks.

Committee defended

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye also defended the President's decision to form a Committee of Peers (COP) to review the PAGC recommendation, the first time that a group of Cabinet members was asked to judge the case of a fellow Cabinet member.

On Jan. 30, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo rejected for lack of merit the PAGC's recommendation to file criminal charges against Perez for issuing an official memorandum in November 2002 preventing the Bureau of Immigration from revealing the travel records of the President, Vice President, Cabinet secretaries and lawmakers without his prior clearance.

Subject to review

The decision set off criticism that Malacañang was not serious about prosecuting its own people involved in illicit activities.

Bunye emphasized that Malacañang's rejection of the PAGC recommendation would not change anything; the anti-graft watchdog could still file appropriate charges and conduct an investigation on illegal activities of presidential appointees. "What is clear from its charter is that the PAGC's recommendations are subject to review by the President," Bunye sad.

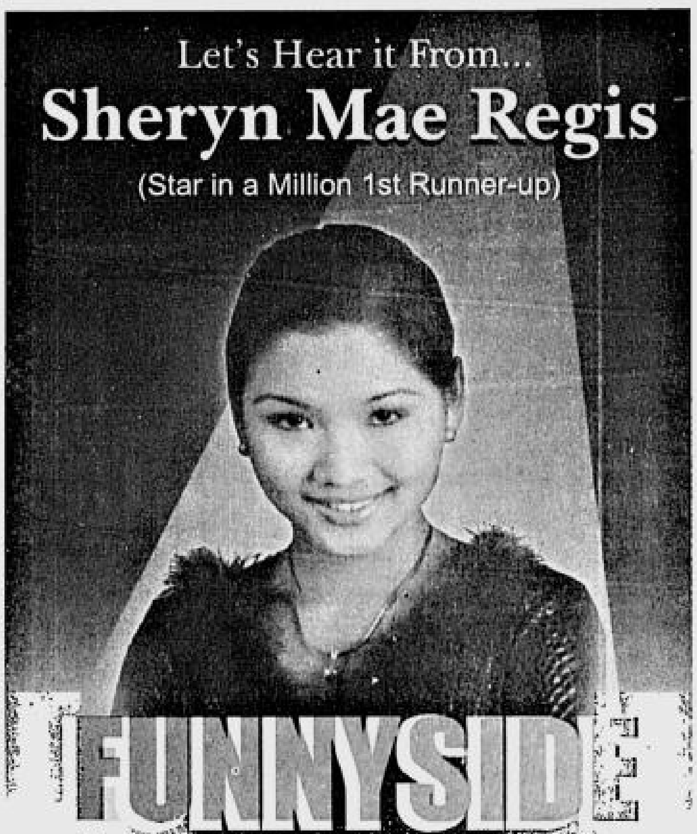
Bunye said the COP—chaired by chief presidential legal counsel Joe Nathan P. Tenefrancia with Budget Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin and National Economic and Development Authority Director-General Romulo L. Neri as members—was composed of Cabinet members known for their "integrity and probity" and that they acted on the matter "even-handedly."

Bunye also disputed claims that Malacañang was dragging its feet on PAGC recommendations. Although it took Malacañang a year and two days to act on PAGC's case against Perez, Bunye said that this was still "within reasonable limits," considering that some cases had taken much longer to decide.

Main rival

Perez's main rival for Batangas governor is town mayor Armand Sanchez, a member of the Liberal Party, which is also part of the administration's K-4 coalition.

The President's decision to choose Perez over Sanchez, who is reported to enjoy the support of Batangas' town mayors, could force the latter to jump over to Fernando Poe Jr.'s Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino. But Defensor quickly shot down the speculation, noting that Perez was actually chosen on the basis of arbitration by coalition members.



Let's Hear it From...
Sheryn Mae Regis
(Star in a Million 1st Runner-up)
FUNNYSIDE
Entertainment Restaurant & Bar
The Place to Wine, Dine & Unwind
Located in the heart of Quezon City, FUNNYSIDE offers fine dining and superb entertainment. Enjoy yourself to the fullest and see the FUNNYSIDE of life.
SHOW SCHEDULES
February Entertainer
Feb. [illegible] SHERYN MAE REGIS
[illegible]
Feb. [illegible] XSENTRIC ACOUSTIC BAND
Feb. 10 DREAM SEQUENCE BAND
Feb. 11 JUDITH BANAL & The Evolution
Feb. [illegible] JENINE DESIDERIO with Old School
For reservation please call 928-9637 • 927-7729
920-8569 • 929-8575 or visit us at #62 Timog Ave.
near cor. Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City

HONEY HOLIDAYS
Special Promotion
3D2N
HONGKONG
$99
Direct Flight To HongKong
Departure: Feb. 6 up to Feb. 27
**Booking & issuance of tickets should be made on 6 to10 Feb only!
• MKT: 892-8631 to 35 / 892-4704 to 05
• Q.C.: 434-3879 / 924-1957

COPIERS Sales / Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
ALSO AVAILABLE: LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
₱15,000. ONLY
POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15CPM
₱49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW! CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
₱20,000. ONLY
BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
₱17,500. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 M! Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS / BLUEPRINT / RISO FAX MACHINES, ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY / TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

Calling all parents, students, professionals and school officials...
Want to know more about studying in the United States?
VISIT Study USA 2004
Meet representatives and admission officers from
DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY*
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Attend free counseling sessions & presentations on educational opportunities
February 8, 2004 • Sunday
OAKWOOD PREMIER AYALA CENTER
7th Floor Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
• 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact:
U.S. Commercial Service - U.S. Embassy Manila
EDU NIALA or SONIA ROLLE
Tel. Nos. 888 40 88 ext 5829 / 5827 or 888 66 19
Or visit: www.BuyUSA.ph
*Brochures only
FREE ADMISSION

San Cristobal Garden Homes
Calamba, Laguna
Initial Down Payment
P5,000
Available thru PAG-IBIG & SSS
A project of
OMNI ASIA
Property Ventures
Tel. (049) 2455352 /
(049) 2457336 /
0917-9198419 /
0920-2100952 /
813-8382 Loc. 730
WELCOME Agents/Brokers

Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware
UP TO 60% OFF
Bodega Sale!
on factory seconds
Now in GLOBAL CITY
January 9 to February 8, 2004
10:00am - 8:00pm
The FORT Square, Katipunan Circle corner 7th Ave. (across NBC Tent)
Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Metro Manila
FREE 14-inch Platter
for every Php 2,000.00 worth of purchase.
(cash basis only)
DEFINITELY LAST DAY FEBRUARY 8
For inquiries: [illegible]
Noritake Plant: 9436822 [illegible] Marketing Dept: 0917-8400026
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-011 Series of 2004

Accent Table w/ 2 chairs before P27,400 now P13,700 only
Sofa Bed (3+1+1) seater Before P55,000 now P24,500 only
Dining chair before P6,000 now P1,500 only
Dining Table w/ 6 chairs before P65,000 now P18,000 only
Dining Table w/ 6 chairs before P65,000 now P18,000 only
A Gratitude of our Success
Celebrating our achievement in times of economic crisis this past few months, we still meet our target through the help of our valued clients and still remain the no. 1 in furniture industry. Thank you for your continued loyal patronage.
Center Table before P12,200 now P6,200 only
Side Table before P10,200 now P5,200 only
Bed w/ mattress w/ 2 nite tables King size Before P84,300 now P41,500 only
TV Cabinet Before P18,300 now P9,700 only
Bed w/ mattress Queen size Before P103,000 now P41,500 only
Promo extended up to Feb 15, 2004
Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0233 Series of 2004
ZODIA FURNITURE MALL BRANCH ONE
151 EDSA, Mandaluyong City, M.M.
Tels.: (02) 727-7577 • 725-2943 • 725-2950 • 725-2958 Fax: (02) 372-8629
ZODIA FURNITURE MALL BRANCH TWO
Olive Plaza, Complex Ninoy Aquino Ave. San Dionisio, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Tels.: 820-8547 • 820-8577

BRITISH COUNCIL
EDUCATION the best you can be
study in the uk education fair 2004
14 - 15 february 2004
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
edsa shangri-la hotel
boracay room
brooke house college
cambridge tutors college
concord college
st edmund's college
university of birmingham
cardiff university
university of hertfordshire
middlesex university
university of northumbria
oxford brookes university
university of sunderland
thames valley university
university of wales, bangor
ADMISSION IS FREE
for more information please contact 914 1011 to 14 educationuk@britishcouncil.org.ph

4 more bodies recovered from Rocknes wreck

OSLO—Divers on Thursday recovered four more bodies from the wreck of a cargo ship that capsized in a Norwegian fjord off the coast of Bergen on Jan. 19, killing 18 of the 30 crew, Norwegian police said.

Sixteen Filipinos died in the accident.

"Four more bodies were found inside the Rocknes during searches today," Bergen police spokesman Tryggve Hillestad said in a statement.

The discovery brings to seven the number of dead sailors found inside the ship since Monday when divers began inspecting the wreck, which is docked—still overturned—at a maintenance shipyard.

The Norwegian-registered Rocknes was carrying a load of rubble to Germany when it capsized in minutes in a narrow passage of the Raune fjord. Reports indicated that it hit an underwater reef and took on water before overturning.

The accident claimed the lives of 16 Filipinos, one German and the Norwegian captain of the ship.

The seven bodies recovered since Monday have been identified only as six Filipinos and a German, Hillestad said.

Twelve people were rescued in the hours after the accident.

"In addition to searching for the dead, the divers have been asked to remain attentive to any technical clues that could be of importance to the police investigation" into the cause of the accident, he said.

Divers are to continue their search on Friday for the six bodies still missing. *AFP*

Talks with Reds to resume in Oslo next week

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday that peace talks aimed at ending a 35-year-old Marxist insurgency will resume as scheduled next week despite a recent surge in rebel attacks.

The Feb. 10-13 meeting between government negotiators and exiled communist leaders will be hosted and mediated by the Norwegian government, which brokered the last round of failed negotiations three years ago.

"At the moment, there are no hitches" to the resumption of the talks, said chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III.

Rebel attacks

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who's running in May 10 elections, appears eager to move the peace process forward and capitalize on a possible deal. But the rebels have threatened to step up attacks to reduce her election chances, saying an opposition victory would boost peace prospects.

Clashes in the last two weeks in Mindanao and Luzon have killed at least 13 people, including an airman who was killed Tuesday when guerrillas ambushed a convoy of air force engineers who were building schools.

National interest

The President said Thursday the peace talks are in the national interest, and that the insurgency can be ended through a combination of reconciliation and implementing "the full force of law."

The military said earlier this week that in the absence of a ceasefire it will continue with its offensives against the rebels.

A Mass has been scheduled in Manila for Sunday, the day Bello and others will leave for Oslo, to pray for the success of the negotiations, officials said.

The government suspended the talks in 2001 after the guerrillas gunned down a former congressman they accused of human rights violations.

Stumbling blocks

The rebels have been fighting for a Maoist state, and draw their ranks from impoverished farmers, disillusioned leftist students and labor groups who accuse the government of widespread corruption, failure to redistribute land titles from the rich few and reliance on US military aid.

One of the major stumbling blocks to achieving peace has been the rebels' insistence that they be dropped from the US and European Union list of terrorist organizations. The Philippine government says it has no power to remove them, but at the same time appears to be using the terrorist tag as leverage in the talks. *AP*

NEWSBRIEFS

Death cons get reprieve

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday granted a 90-day reprieve to 12 convicts scheduled to die by lethal injection this month, according to ANC television news. Eight of the convicts had been sentenced to death for rape. This brought to 14 the number of convicts set to die whose sentences have been stayed by the President. Last month, she granted a reprieve to two convicts scheduled to die for kidnapping. The President late last year reinstated the death penalty in the wake of rising crime, particularly kidnapping and bank robberies. The reinstatement raised a protest from Church groups but was supported by businessmen and family members of crime victims.

Loren: Why not FPJ?

"WHY FPJ?" the INQUIRER asked vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda .

"Why not FPJ?" the senator shot back as she dismissed criticism from followers of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Congress asking why a woman who considered herself bright and pro-people would choose to align herself with a high school dropout like movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., the presidential candidate of the opposition. "Why not? He's a man of integrity and compassion. He has the capacity to lead our country and unify our nation," she said. Legarda said that Poe has the qualities of a good leader under the present circumstances. "You know, times call for different kinds of leaders. Today is unique in the sense that we're in times of crisis, we are so politically divided. Our nation must be healed and that nation can be healed by a very well loved leader who heeded the clamor of the masses," she stressed. ***Cynthia D. Balana***

DECS forms 'teachers defense team'

UNABLE to stop public school teachers from going on poll duty, the Department of Education said it would do its best to protect teachers from harassment. Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus announced they would form a "teachers' defense team" to take care of election-related lawsuits against teachers. He said most cases are just meant to harass the teachers. "We asked Comelec to review the charges before filing them in court because most charges are filed by the losing candidate," he said. De Jesus has strongly opposed fielding public school teachers for poll duty, saying this is no longer part of their work. The education secretary said they would give teachers training seminars starting Feb. 12. He said some teachers get sued due to poor knowledge of their role in conducting the elections. "We advise teachers to be transparent in their work; once they become partisan we ourselves would file charges against them," De Jesus said. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

Measles kills 5 B'laan kids

FIVE children have died and 16 others are still sick after measles struck a B'laan tribe in Cotabato amid the Department of Health's Ligtas Tigdas 2004 campaign seeking to immunize 18 million kids nationwide. Health Undersecretary for Mindanao Milagros Fernandez said that the epidemic apparently started from a family of seven which was hit by the measles virus in Barangay Simsiman in Nurallah, Cotabato last month. The youngest fatality was a five-month-old infant belonging to the family suspected of starting the epidemic while the oldest was a 12-year-old child, Fernandez said. She added that eight of the 16 sick children are now confined at the Nurallah hospital but they are already in stable condition. The DOH earlier said that the campaign to eliminate measles in the Philippines, the first to be done in Asia, would face obstacles among the indigenous tribes who have long resisted vaccination due to cultural beliefs. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

PAGC clears Gozun

THE Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has dismissed the charge that Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun anomalously awarded a consultancy contract to a firm she used to co-own. PAGC's decision, which Malacañang affirmed on Jan. 28, junked allegations that Gozun was guilty of conflict of interest when the DENR chose Gaia South Inc. as a consultant on an air pollution control program financed by the Asian Development Bank. The charge was made in September last year by lawyer Juliano Nacino, who was earlier fired by Gozun as director of the department's legal services office. The PAGC upheld Gozun's defense that she had divested her interests in GSI as early as 1994, and that the bidding process for the contract was already completed when she got the DENR post on Dec. 13, 2002. ***Volt Contreras***

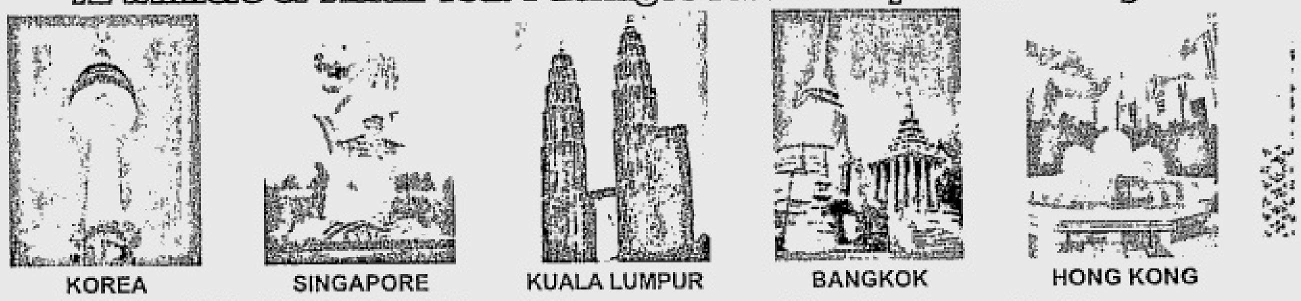
UP prof starts 2004 lecture series

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines professor Patrick Flores kicks off the 2004 Lecture Series of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines with a talk on the twists and turns in the history of modern art in the Philippines on Feb. 14 at the National Museum. The lecture will explore the beginnings of modern art in the country up to the emergence of the avant garde and institutions of culture in the 1970s, focusing on key events and personalities in the art world. Flores is a former chair of the UP Department of Art Studies. He is an active contributor to local and international art publications, and is actively involved in curatorial projects. The lecture starts at 10 a.m. at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People, Finance Road, Manila. Registration begins at 9 a.m. For more information, call 404-2685.

A Valentine Investment
TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
A minute drive to ROTUNDA/back of MCDONALD and OLIVAREZ PLAZA 1
for as low as P10,920 monthly
NO DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME also available
812-2222 • 818-8888
243-6565 • 241-1894
CITYLAND
www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware
Valentine Sale!
of factory seconds
Up to 60% OFF on selected items
February 14-29, 2004
Open daily from 9am to 4pm
Get a Free 14-inch OVAL PLATTER for a min. Php 2,000.00 worth of purchase
(in a single receipt • cash basis only)
Per DTI-NCR Permit # A3-096 Series of 2004
To be held at:
Ceram Trading, Inc.
c/o Noritake PMI Compound
J.P. Rizal St., Concepcion, Marikina City
Telephone: 948 4876 / 941 6829 / 942 1185

WOW MAGIC SING PREMIUM
WIN & FLY!
RAFFLE PROMO
Discover the MAGIC SING PREMIUM difference and get a chance to win these exciting tour packages.
GRAND DRAW
12 winners of Asian Tour Packages for 2 with pocket money!



KOREA SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR BANGKOK HONG KONG
MONTHLY DRAW: 30 winners of Local Tour Packages for 2!

BORACAY BOHOL CEBU DAVAO FORT ILOCANDIA PALAWAN

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Every purchase of Magic Sing Premium Videoke Microphone from participating dealers & outlets within the promo period entitles the buyer to join the Magic Sing Premium "WIN & FLY" Raffle Promo. Promo period is from February 1 to June 30, 2004. Promo is valid for subscribers of Smart, Globe, Sun Cellular, Talk 'N Text & Touch Mobile.
2. To join, buyer sends the following message to 2299:

① Key in: MSPREMIUM<space>PROMO<space>name/address/age/gender/Warranty card serial no./purchase date <mmddyy>/store/location of store
MSPREMIUM PROMO/Juan de la Cruz/119 Meralco Ave.Pasig/25/M/04-34561B/020104/ABC Store/MAKATI
② Send to 2299
③ Buyer must comply with joining procedure. After sending entry, buyer will receive the following reply:
Entry received! Thx 4 joining d Magic Sing Premium Win & Fly Raffle Promo. Ur entry is subject to validation. Promo period is from Feb. 1-June 30, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0328 series of 2004. Every msg sent to 2299 will cost P2.50

3. Send your entry anytime during the promo period. Please take note of the deadlines per monthly draw. Only messages received within stated time frame will be considered. Every message sent to 2299 will cost P2.50.
4. A Magic Sing Premium Warranty Card Serial Number can be used only once. Sending entries with the same Warranty Card Serial Number will not qualify for more entries. The Warranty Card Number refers to the 8-digit alpha numeric found on the Magic Sing Premium unit you bought. One warranty card serial number sent to 2299 is equivalent to one raffle entry only.
5. Electronic Monthly draws and the Grand draw will be scheduled on the following dates under the supervision of a DTI representative:

a) Monthly Draws

Monthly Draws	Valid For Entries Received
March 10, 2004	Feb. 1- 29, 2004
April 14, 2004	Mar. 1- 31, 2004
May 12, 2004	Apr. 1- 30, 2004
June 9, 2004	May 1- 31, 2004
July 14, 2004	June 1- 30, 2004

b) Grand Draw

Grand Draw	Valid For Entries Received
July 14, 2004	Feb. 1 - June 30, 2004

Draw Venues and Time:
G2K Corporation 3/F, Richbelt Terraces,
#19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
Tel.: Nos.: 723-2492 • 725-1724
Time: 2:00 p.m.

6. Prizes as follows:

a. MONTHLY DRAW PRIZES : Two (2) winners per Local Tour Destination Package for two(2) worth P 14,000. Package includes round-trip tickets & 3 days, 2 nights hotel accommodation inclusive of daily breakfast.

b. GRAND DRAW PRIZES :
- Four (4) winners of Seoul, Korea Tour Packages for 2 plus US$200 pocket money. Package includes round-trip tickets for 2, 4 days, 3 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast & city tour.
- Eight(8) winners of Asian Tour packages for 2 plus US$100 pocket money. Package includes round-trip tickets for 2, 3 days, 2 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast & city tour.

March 10, 2004 1st Monthly Draw	April 14, 2004 2nd Monthly Draw	May 12, 2004 3rd Monthly Draw	June 9, 2004 4th Monthly Draw	July 14, 2004 5th Monthly Draw	July 14, 2004 GRAND DRAW
• Boracay (2) • Bohol (2) • Fort Ilocandia (2)	• Palawan (2) • Boracay (2) • Bohol (2)	• Cebu (2) • Palawan (2) • Boracay (2)	• Davao (2) • Cebu (2) • Palawan (2)	• Davao (2) • Cebu (2) • Boracay (2)	• Korea (4) • Singapore (2) • Kuala Lumpur (2) • Hong Kong (2) • Bangkok (2)

7. Non-winning entries for the monthly draw will not qualify for the succeeding monthly draws. Both winning and non-winning entries per monthly draw are qualified for the Grand Draw. The 5th monthly draw and the Grand Draw will be done simultaneously.
8. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI. Tour packages are valid for six (6) months from date of issuance.
9. Employees of In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, G2K Corporation, Magic Sing dealers & outlets, H.A.S. Communications, their ad and PR agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from this promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0328, Series of 2004

SEE POSTERS AND FLYERS FOR FURTHER DETAILS

PARTICIPATING DEALERS:

ODYSSEY MUSIC & VIDEO-HOTLINE: (632) 687-3597 • O MUSIC VIDEO- HOTLINE (632) 687-3597 • AUTOMATIC CENTER-HOTLINE (632) 927-6747 • SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER-HOTLINE: (632) 927-6747 • ASTRO VISION-HOTLINE: (632) 920-1531 • ASTRO PLUS-HOTLINE: (632) 920-1531 • WESTERN MARKETING-HOTLINE: (632) 634-6532 • ABENSON (SELECTED BRANCHES)

ABACIAL MERCHANDISING-HOTLINE: (02) 736-4538 • ABEN MKTNG-HOTLINE: (052)480-5110 • AFOX AUDIO VIDEO -HOTLINE 721-0810 • AFP COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE SERVICES -HOTLINE: 911-6751 • APPLIANCE CENTRUM-HOTLINE: (034) 434-0992 • A PLUS A-HOTLINE: 912-7168 • AMAZON-HOTLINE: (02) 656 9319 • ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CTR. CO.-HOTLINE: (032) 255-0458 • AUDIO MAXX TRADING HOTLINE: 935-9193 • AUDIO MIX-HOTLINE: (043) 757-2887 • AUDIO MAXX HOTLINE 681-8465 • AVID AV SURFER-HOTLINE: (02) 843-1541 • BETHEL MKTNG -HOTLINE: (02) 911-2516 • BATTERY DOCTORS HOTLINE: (049) 838-0860 • BCS MUSIC CTR.-HOTLINE: (082) 221-4658 • BELCAP-HOTLINE: (02) 940-0147 • BELDEN MKTNG HOTLINE: 733-2393 • BHF APPLIANCE CENTER-HOTLINE: (075) 515-7325 • BODEGASITE COMPUTER WAREHOUSE-HOTLINE: (048) 434-7074 • BOHOL QUALITY MALL-HOTLINE: (038) 411-3164 • BUY SMART HOTLINE: 640-9785 • CHEVERONE CYBERCAFE -HOTLINE: 735-8964 • CITY SUPERMARKET INC.-HOTLINE: (075) 522-9488 • DENZEL ENTERPRISES-HOTLINE: (032) 253-3610 • EARL TOY WORLD HOTLINE: 843-0635 • ECHO APPLIANCE CTR.-HOTLINE: (032) 253-1858 • EZ MAGIC HOTLINE: (032) 231-2121 • FAIR N SQUARE EMPORIUM, INC -HOTLINE: (02) 361-7762 • GUANZON-HOTLINE: (075) 522-1085 • GC APPLIANCE CORP TEL. NO. (034) 435-4884 OR 81 • GOLDEN SOUND-HOTLINE: (02) 721-2545 • HIROSE ELECTRONICS-HOTLINE: (02) 733-2842 • IMAGE VIDEO TRADING CORP.-HOTLINE: (02) 526-7104 • J&R HOTLINE 241-2661 • JEMS APPLIANCE -HOTLINE: 703 1024 • KESENG COMMERCIAL -HOTLINE: (078) 622-2633 • KNIGHT AUDIO ROOM-HOTLINE: (02) 736-3881 • K SERVICO-HOTLINE: 912-5604 • LISTENING ROOM-HOTLINE: (02) 633-5085 • LISTENING STYLE-HOTLINE: (02) 632-6345 • LOPUE'S HOTLINE (034) 441-0411 • LOW PRICE COMMERCIAL- HOTLINE: (02) 831-3299 • MEGA MIXX RECORD BAR- HOTLINE: (02) 910-5809 • MEGATRON MKTNG CTR-HOTLINE: 733-3768 • MESALA-HOTLINE: 6328367 • MICRO J AUDIO SHACK HOTLINE: (02) 681-5195 • MULIROLF ENTERPRISES-HOTLINE: (049) 241-2584 • NINTENDO COMMERCIAL-HOTLINE: (02) 831-7080 • NOEL'S SURPLUS STORE BUTUAN CITY • NEXTBASE COMMERCIAL -HOTLINE: (049) 520-2208 NOBELTIS HOTLINE: (043) 757-2021 • OCAMPO'S JEWELRY (ANGELES)-HOTLINE: (045) 911-2441 • OHM'S TRADER-HOTLINE: (02) 733-2384 • OK DEPT. STORE-HOTLINE: (062) 991-0910 • PEOPLE'S MKTNG.-HOTLINE: (052) 480-7026 • PACIFIC ELECTRONICS HOTLINE: (02) 733-1738 • PNP SERVICE STORE-HOTLINE: 723-8113 • PROSOUND ELECTRONICS CCTR -HOTLINE: (02) 732-1842 • PS COMMERCIAL TEL. NO. (078) 652-1196 • REVERB APPLIANCE CENTRUM-HOTLINE: (032) 253-0257 • REVINA INT'L. CORP HOTLINE: 852-7343 • RICHLAND ELECTRONICS CTR. HOTLINE: 733-1706 • RJ MUSIC CITY-HOTLINE: (02) 635-8142 • ROMSTREL GEN MERCHANDISE -HOTLINE: (032) 254-6313 • SAVERS MART-HOTLINE: (045) 982-0512 • SIGHTS & SOUNDS-HOTLINE: (02) 634-1789 • SOLID ELECTRONICS-HOTLINE: (02) 733-1695 • SOUND QUEST ELECTRONICS CCTR -HOTLINE: (02) 736-5009 • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CCTR -HOTLINE: (02) 818-5493 • THESSON'S MKTNG. HOTLINE: (054) 473-2803 • TIONGSAN HARRISON-HOTLINE: (074) 443-9348 • TIONGSAN SUPER BAZZAR--HOTLINE: (074) 304-2003 • TSB BAZZAR -TEL. NO. (074) 442-4363 • VICTRONICS COMPUTER, INC. HOTLINE: (02) 811-1540 • W&M MMKTNG.-HOTLINE: (02) 735-4727 • WILLY AND SONS CORP.-HOTLINE: (052) 480-6421 • WILSONIC MKTNG- HOTLINE: • YAMAHA SCH. OF MUSIC PHIL., INC -HOTLINE: (02) 899-9595

Magic Sing Premium is EXCLUSIVELY distributed by:
in-a-jiffy enterprises & G2K CORPORATION
www.magicmic.com

SAN JUAN:
G/F Richbelt Terraces (Left Wing)
#19 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Tel. Nos.: 722-5527 • 725-3994
Email: g2k@surfshop.net.ph

MANILA:
7/F Marc 2000 Tower, Taft Ave.
Cor. San Andres St., Malate
Tel. Nos.: 405-0178 • 405-0186
Email: inajiffy@surfshop.net.ph

MAKATI:
G/F Bldg. 3, Jannov Bldg.,
2296 Pasong Tamo Extension
Tel. Nos.: 892-8080 • 813-7122

Manufactured by: ET ENTERTECH Company Ltd. (Korea)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Tenet: CIA never claimed Iraq posed imminent threat

WASHINGTON—Intelligence analysts never told President George W. Bush before the invasion of Iraq that Saddam Hussein's rule posed an imminent threat, CIA Director George Tenet said in a heated defense of agency findings central to the decision to go to war.

CIA Director TENET

The urgency of the Iraqi threat was Bush's main argument for the war. But the president said Thursday he still would have invaded Iraq if he'd known no weapons stockpiles existed—adding a new element to the much-debated question of whether the United States went to war based on faulty assumptions.

Tenet, addressing such questions for the first time after weeks of silence, acknowledged that analysts believed before the war that Saddam had chemical and biological weapons, although none have been found. He said he believes some of what US intelligence predicted about Iraq will turn out to have been right—and some wrong—as is often the case in such matters.

He made clear that analysts differed among themselves all along on important aspects of Saddam's chemical, biological and nuclear programs and spelled out those disputes in an October 2002 intelligence estimate given to the White House.

"They never said there was an imminent threat," Tenet said in a speech at Georgetown University. "Rather, they painted an objective assessment for our policy-makers of a brutal dictator who was continuing his efforts to deceive and build programs that might constantly surprise us and threaten our interests."

Tenet's remarks hit back at his former special adviser on Iraqi weapons, David Kay, who said last month "we were almost all wrong" about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The comments also seemed designed to inoculate the CIA from becoming a scapegoat in the fight over whether the war was justified.

Speaking in Charleston, South Carolina, Bush acknowledged that the weapons have not been found, although investigators have discovered evidence of possible programs. He said the war was still justified.

"Knowing what I knew then and knowing what I know today, America did the right thing in Iraq," Bush said.

Tenet, in his 40-minute defense, never said in detail how the Bush administration, citing US intelligence, might have painted an inaccurate picture of Iraq's weapons arsenal. He insisted that the intelligence analysts had not tailored their findings for any political purpose.

That leaves the door open for Democrats to demand more investigation and explanation, and for many to question the basis of the administration's preemptive strike doctrine.

"It goes to the core of why a nation went to war," said Democratic presidential front-runner, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

Before the war, Bush and his senior advisers made clear they viewed the threat from Saddam as urgent.

In October 2002, Bush told an audience in Ohio that "the danger is already significant and it only grows worse with time. If we know Saddam Hussein has dangerous weapons today—and we do—does it make any sense for the world to wait to confront him as he grows even stronger and develops even more dangerous weapons?" *AP*

The shadowy world of US intelligence

WASHINGTON—US Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet sits atop the US intelligence services, a community of several agencies with some 100,000 civil and military employees.

Here are the main agencies:

- CIA: The Central Intelligence Agency, created in 1947, is based in Langley, Virginia, outside Washington. It has 17,000 employees and an estimated $3.1-billion annual budget. It backed coups to overthrow unfriendly foreign governments during the Cold War, but its mission has changed since the fall of communism. It is involved in economic espionage and it gathers, corroborates and analyzes information that could affect US security. The agency has several divisions, including a Directorate of Operations and a Directorate of Science and Technology.
- NSA: The National Security Agency, created in 1952, is based in Fort Meade, Maryland, a state bordering Washington. Its 21,000 agents specialize in deciphering coded messages, listening to telephone calls and infiltrating e-mails. It uses satellites that can read a car's license plate number from space. The ultra-secretive agency, sometimes known as "No Such Agency," has an estimated $3.6-billion annual budget.
- NRO: The National Reconnaissance Office, created in 1960, is based in Chantilly, Virginia. It oversees the intelligence community's satellites and provides images to the CIA and the Pentagon. Its budget and personnel figures are unknown, but employees come from the intelligence, military and science fields.
- FBI: The Federal Bureau of Investigation, created in 1908, is based in Washington. Its 11,400 agents stepped up their role in intelligence gathering and analysis after Sept. 11, 2001. Outside the country, the FBI contributes to intelligence gathering in investigations of terrorism and plane attacks.
- Homeland Security Department: The agency was created in 2003 to group 17,000 employees from 22 federal departments and agencies linked to national security. Its mission includes combining and analyzing intelligence from multiple sources such as the FBI and CIA.
- Other agencies: Each armed forces service has its own intelligence division. These services—in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force—employ a total of 54,000 people and have an estimated $11-billion annual budget. *AFP*

A VIDEO grab image shows an injured person from the Avtozovodskaya metro station in Moscow after an explosion on a commuter train, Feb. 6. REUTERS

39 killed in rush-hour blast in Moscow subway

MOSCOW—Some 39 people were killed and 122 injured Friday after a blast ripped through a Moscow subway car during the busy morning rush hour in what police said was probably a suicide bomb attack.

The blast hit a subway car between two stations in southeast Moscow around 8:40 a.m., according to emergency officials who said at least 100 people could have been inside each subway car at the time.

More than 700 survivors of the blast, most of them Muscovites on their way to work, had been evacuated from the metro nearly two hours after the blast.

"According to preliminary estimates, 39 people died and about 122 others were injured," a spokesperson for the emergencies ministry said by phone.

"It was an attack," said Kirill Mazulin, a spokesperson for the Moscow city police, on the scene.

"The bomb was probably on a kamikaze terrorist" and had the power of one kilogram of TNT, Mazulin said.

The FSB (ex-KGB) security service said the blast was an "attack," the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"The main version of what happened is an attack," an unnamed spokesperson for the FSB (ex-KGB) security service told the ITAR-TASS news agency.

The blast occurred as the train was heading toward the center of the Russian capital between the Avtozavodskaya and Paveletskaya in southeast Moscow.

A fire raged as a result of the blast and smoke poured out of the station, which was being evacuated, news agencies reported. More than 100 ambulances rushed to site.

Rebels from Chechnya, where separatists have been fighting Russian troops for more than four years, have staged suicide attacks in Russia with increasing frequency during the past year.

The last attack blamed on Chechen rebels killed six people and the female suicide bomber on Dec. 9 outside the National Hotel in downtown Moscow, a stone's throw from the Kremlin.

Friday's blast comes a little more than a month before presidential elections in Russia, during which President Vladimir Putin, who launched the latest Chechen war, is widely expected to be reelected. *AFP*

VILLAGERS of Bolangan village set fire to hundreds of chickens to cut the spread of bird flu near a poultry yard in the town of Tabanan, central Bali island in Indonesia Feb. 6. Indonesia's welfare minister said that about 10 million chickens in the country would have to be culled to stem the outbreak of bird flu. AFP

Experts say bird flu still out of control as 18th victim dies

HANOI—The death toll from Asia's bird flu crisis rose to 18 Friday with a fatality in Vietnam as international experts warned the disease was still out of control and criticized governments for their tardy response.

After two days of emergency talks in Rome, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) urged governments to launch a vaccination campaign to contain the spread of avian influenza, which has struck 10 Asian countries.

"The epidemic has not been brought under control and we need an urgent response," said FAO director Jacques Diouf, adding that the disease must be prevented from spreading geographically and to other animal species.

The warning came as traces of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu were discovered in pigs in the Vietnamese capital and its surroundings.

"We have seen evidence from nasal swabs taken from pigs in the Hanoi area that H5N1 is present," Anton Rychener, head of the FAO in Vietnam said. "We are now studying what the best course of action is."

The World Health Organization has warned that H5N1 could kill millions across the globe if it combined with a human influenza virus to create a new highly contagious strain transmissible among humans.

This situation could be exacerbated if pigs are found to carry H5N1 as they are an ideal "mixing vessel" for bird and human viruses, experts say.

Rychener said bird flu had been detected in non-poultry animals in previous bird flu outbreaks around the world.

Peter Cordingley, spokesperson for the WHO's Western Pacific Office in Manila, said the organization was unable to provide any immediate comment on the potential impact on human health this new development could have.

Taiwan, meanwhile, ordered a cull of 230,000 chickens Friday after fresh outbreaks of the less virulent H5N2 flu strain were found at eight farms. *AFP*

Iraq Shiite leader escapes slay bid; UN mission due

BAGHDAD—A UN mission was due to arrive here Friday to review demands for imminent direct elections, as Iraq's majority Shiite Muslims gathered for tense weekly prayers one day after their revered spiritual leader escaped an attempted attack.

A source close to the reclusive Ali al-Sistani said a man was intercepted by bodyguards as he tried to break into the grand ayatollah's office to carry out "a criminal act targeting" the cleric.

The report contradicted television reports that gunmen sprayed Sistani's car with bullets as he left his office for home, clouding claims that the attack was an outright assassination attempt.

Sistani escaped unharmed and was being cared for by concerned relatives, Shiite politician Muwaffak al-Rubaie said.

"What I call for now, is for there to be no confessional backlash after this assassination attempt. Instead there should be a national response encompassing all of Iraq," said Rubaie, a member of the US-installed Governing Council.

A Sunni member of the council, mindful of such a backlash against his own minority, which once backed Saddam Hussein, immediately denounced the attack on Sistani.

AYATOLLAH ALI AL-SISTANI

"This horrible act aims only to divide the Iraqi people but it will fail," said Nasir Chaderchi.

As Shiites prepared to attend tense Friday prayers, UN experts were due to arrive in Baghdad to assess the possibility of holding polls to elect the members of a transitional Iraqi government due to be in place by June 30.

Sistani has been the driving force behind such demands.

Asked whether this insistence could have been behind the assassination attempt, Chaderchi said: "Everyone wants elections in Iraq, some want them before the transfer of power and some after." *AFP*

Man who gave Pakistan nuke bomb pardoned but faces life under siege

By Rana Jawad

ISLAMABAD—The man who made Pakistan a nuclear power may have escaped a jail term for leaking the country's atomic secrets but could spend the rest of his life under virtual house arrest, officials said Friday.

The warning came as details emerged of how disgraced one-time hero Abdul Qadeer Khan ran a shady underworld network from Dubai with contacts in three continents, trading in nuclear centrifuges and atomic bomb blueprints.

But despite receiving a presidential pardon from Pervez Musharraf on Thursday after admitting to handing over atomic data to Iran, Libya and North Korea, Khan will remain under tight security, unable to move around at will.

"It is a conditional pardon and Khan knows he would be jailed if he tries to proliferate again in any way," a senior government official involved with the investigation into the scandal said.

The proliferation saga stretches back over two decades.

Officials said Khan was protected against any demand for his handover from a foreign country or agency after authorities registered a police dossier against the tall, greying scientist for offenses under the official secret act.

"The measures provide a protected wall around the fallen hero," one said.

According to government insiders, Khan ran a black-market network from the Middle East trading in centrifuges for uranium enrichment.

"During the last 48 months, Dr. Khan made as many as 44 foreign trips to Dubai and separately also to Malaysia, Libya and Iran," a government official said on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 68-year-old former metallurgist used his experience working with a European nuclear agency in the 1970s to enable Pakistan to build centrifuges to enrich Uranium and build a nuclear bomb.

Dubai was the springboard for his proliferation activities where centrifuges secretly built in Malaysia by a pseudo-commercial firm were brought and then passed to end users, the government official said.

"When he was in Malaysia last year we summoned him back for fears that he might be picked up by some foreign agency," he added.

Another detained Pakistani nuclear scientist, doctor Mohammad Farooq, formed the core of the proliferation network which also included individuals from South Africa, Germany, Holland, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Dubai, he said.

Farooq who was the first scientist brought in when officials launched a probe last December, after being alerted that Pakistani nuclear secrets were being traded abroad. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Tenet: CIA never claimed Iraq posed imminent threat

WASHINGTON—Intelligence analysts never told President George W. Bush before the invasion of Iraq that Saddam Hussein's rule posed an imminent threat, CIA Director George Tenet said in a heated defense of agency findings central to the decision to go to war.

CIA Director TENET

The urgency of the Iraqi threat was Bush's main argument for the war. But the president said Thursday he still would have invaded Iraq if he'd known no weapons stockpiles existed—adding a new element to the much-debated question of whether the United States went to war based on faulty assumptions.

Tenet, addressing such questions for the first time after weeks of silence, acknowledged that analysts believed before the war that Saddam had chemical and biological weapons, although none have been found. He said he believes some of what US intelligence predicted about Iraq will turn out to have been right—and some wrong—as is often the case in such matters.

He made clear that analysts differed among themselves all along on important aspects of Saddam's chemical, biological and nuclear programs and spelled out those disputes in an October 2002 intelligence estimate given to the White House.

"They never said there was an imminent threat," Tenet said in a speech at Georgetown University. "Rather, they painted an objective assessment for our policy-makers of a brutal dictator who was continuing his efforts to deceive and build programs that might constantly surprise us and threaten our interests."

Tenet's remarks hit back at his former special adviser on Iraqi weapons, David Kay, who said last month "we were almost all wrong" about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The comments also seemed designed to inoculate the CIA from becoming a scapegoat in the fight over whether the war was justified.

Speaking in Charleston, South Carolina, Bush acknowledged that the weapons have not been found, although investigators have discovered evidence of possible programs. He said the war was still justified.

"Knowing what I knew then and knowing what I know today, America did the right thing in Iraq," Bush said.

Tenet, in his 40-minute defense, never said in detail how the Bush administration, citing US intelligence, might have painted an inaccurate picture of Iraq's weapons arsenal. He insisted that the intelligence analysts had not tailored their findings for any political purpose.

That leaves the door open for Democrats to demand more investigation and explanation, and for many to question the basis of the administration's preemptive strike doctrine.

"It goes to the core of why a nation went to war," said Democratic presidential front-runner, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

Before the war, Bush and his senior advisers made clear they viewed the threat from Saddam as urgent.

In October 2002, Bush told an audience in Ohio that "the danger is already significant and it only grows worse with time. If we know Saddam Hussein has dangerous weapons today—and we do—does it make any sense for the world to wait to confront him as he grows even stronger and develops even more dangerous weapons?" *AP*

The shadowy world of US intelligence

WASHINGTON—US Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet sits atop the US intelligence services, a community of several agencies with some 100,000 civil and military employees.

Here are the main agencies:

- CIA: The Central Intelligence Agency, created in 1947, is based in Langley, Virginia, outside Washington. It has 17,000 employees and an estimated $3.1-billion annual budget. It backed coups to overthrow unfriendly foreign governments during the Cold War, but its mission has changed since the fall of communism. It is involved in economic espionage and it gathers, corroborates and analyzes information that could affect US security. The agency has several divisions, including a Directorate of Operations and a Directorate of Science and Technology.
- NSA: The National Security Agency, created in 1952, is based in Fort Meade, Maryland, a state bordering Washington. Its 21,000 agents specialize in deciphering coded messages, listening to telephone calls and infiltrating e-mails. It uses satellites that can read a car's license plate number from space. The ultrasecretive agency, sometimes known as "No Such Agency," has an estimated $3.6-billion annual budget.
- NRO: The National Reconnaissance Office, created in 1960, is based in Chantilly, Virginia. It oversees the intelligence community's satellites and provides images to the CIA and the Pentagon. Its budget and personnel figures are unknown, but employees come from the intelligence, military and science fields.
- FBI: The Federal Bureau of Investigation, created in 1908, is based in Washington. Its 11,400 agents stepped up their role in intelligence gathering and analysis after Sept. 11, 2001. Outside the country, the FBI contributes to intelligence gathering in investigations of terrorism and plane attacks.
- Homeland Security Department: The agency was created in 2003 to group 17,000 employees from 22 federal departments and agencies linked to national security. Its mission includes combining and analyzing intelligence from multiple sources such as the FBI and CIA.
- Other agencies: Each armed forces service has its own intelligence division. These services—in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force—employ a total of 54,000 people and have an estimated $11-billion annual budget. *AFP*

VILLAGERS of Bolangan village set fire to hundreds of chickens to cut the spread of bird flu near a poultry yard in the town of Tabanan, central Bali island in Indonesia Feb. 6. Indonesia's welfare minister said that about 10 million chickens in the country would have to be culled to stem the outbreak of bird flu. AFP

Experts say bird flu still out of control as 18th victim dies

HANOI—The death toll from Asia's bird flu crisis rose to 18 Friday with a fatality in Vietnam as international experts warned the disease was still out of control and criticized governments for their tardy response.

After two days of emergency talks in Rome, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) urged governments to launch a vaccination campaign to contain the spread of avian influenza, which has struck 10 Asian countries.

"The epidemic has not been brought under control and we need an urgent response," said FAO director Jacques Diouf, adding that the disease must be prevented from spreading geographically and to other animal species.

The warning came as traces of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu were discovered in pigs in the Vietnamese capital and its surroundings.

"We have seen evidence from nasal swabs taken from pigs in the Hanoi area that H5N1 is present," Anton Rychener, head of the FAO in Vietnam said. "We are now studying what the best course of action is."

The World Health Organization has warned that H5N1 could kill millions across the globe if it combined with a human influenza virus to create a new highly contagious strain transmissible among humans.

This situation could be exacerbated if pigs are found to carry H5N1 as they are an ideal "mixing vessel" for bird and human viruses, experts say.

Rychener said bird flu had been detected in non-poultry animals in previous bird flu outbreaks around the world.

Peter Cordingley, spokesperson for the WHO's Western Pacific Office in Manila, said the organization was unable to provide any immediate comment on the potential impact on human health this new development could have.

Taiwan, meanwhile, ordered a cull of 230,000 chickens Friday after fresh outbreaks of the less virulent H5N2 flu strain were found at eight farms. *AFP*

A VIDEO grab image shows an injured person from the Avtozovodskaya metro station in Moscow after an explosion on a commuter train, Feb. 6. REUTERS

39 killed in rush-hour blast in Moscow subway

MOSCOW—Some 39 people were killed and 122 injured Friday after a blast ripped through a Moscow subway car during the busy morning rush hour in what police said was probably a suicide bomb attack.

The blast hit a subway car between two stations in southeast Moscow around 8:40 a.m., according to emergency officials who said at least 100 people could have been inside each subway car at the time.

More than 700 survivors of the blast, most of them Muscovites on their way to work, had been evacuated from the metro nearly two hours after the blast.

"According to preliminary estimates, 39 people died and about 122 others were injured," a spokesperson for the emergencies ministry said by phone.

"It was an attack," said Kirill Mazulin, a spokesperson for the Moscow city police, on the scene.

"The bomb was probably on a kamikaze terrorist" and had the power of one kilogram of TNT, Mazulin said.

The FSB (ex-KGB) security service said the blast was an "attack," the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"The main version of what happened is an attack," an unnamed spokesperson for the FSB (ex-KGB) security service told the ITAR-TASS news agency.

The blast occurred as the train was heading toward the center of the Russian capital between the Avtozavodskaya and Paveletskaya in southeast Moscow.

A fire raged as a result of the blast and smoke poured out of the station, which was being evacuated, news agencies reported. More than 100 ambulances rushed to site.

Rebels from Chechnya, where separatists have been fighting Russian troops for more than four years, have staged suicide attacks in Russia with increasing frequency during the past year.

The last attack blamed on Chechen rebels killed six people and the female suicide bomber on Dec. 9 outside the National Hotel in downtown Moscow, a stone's throw from the Kremlin.

Friday's blast comes a little more than a month before presidential elections in Russia, during which President Vladimir Putin, who launched the latest Chechen war, is widely expected to be reelected. *AFP*

Iraq Shiite leader escapes slay bid; UN mission due

BAGHDAD—A UN mission was due to arrive here Friday to review demands for imminent direct elections, as Iraq's majority Shiite Muslims gathered for tense weekly prayers one day after their revered spiritual leader escaped an attempted attack.

A source close to the reclusive Ali al-Sistani said a man was intercepted by bodyguards as he tried to break into the grand ayatollah's office to carry out "a criminal act targeting" the cleric.

The report contradicted television reports that gunmen sprayed Sistani's car with bullets as he left his office for home, clouding claims that the attack was an outright assassination attempt.

Sistani escaped unharmed and was being cared for by concerned relatives, Shiite politician Muwaffak al-Rubaie said.

"What I call for now, is for there to be no confessional backlash after this assassination attempt. Instead there should be a national response encompassing all of Iraq," said Rubaie, a member of the US-installed Governing Council.

A Sunni member of the council, mindful of such a backlash against his own minority, which once backed Saddam Hussein, immediately denounced the attack on Sistani.

AYATOLLAH ALI AL-SISTANI

"This horrible act aims only to divide the Iraqi people but it will fail," said Nasir Chaderchi.

As Shiites prepared to attend tense Friday prayers, UN experts were due to arrive in Baghdad to assess the possibility of holding polls to elect the members of a transitional Iraqi government due to be in place by June 30.

Sistani has been the driving force behind such demands.

Asked whether this insistence could have been behind the assassination attempt, Chaderchi said: "Everyone wants elections in Iraq, some want them before the transfer of power and some after." *AFP*

Man who gave Pakistan nuke bomb pardoned but faces life under siege

By Rana Jawad

ISLAMABAD—The man who made Pakistan a nuclear power may have escaped a jail term for leaking the country's atomic secrets but could spend the rest of his life under virtual house arrest, officials said Friday.

The warning came as details emerged of how disgraced one-time hero Abdul Qadeer Khan ran a shady underworld network from Dubai with contacts in three continents, trading in nuclear centrifuges and atomic bomb blueprints.

But despite receiving a presidential pardon from Pervez Musharraf on Thursday after admitting to handing over atomic data to Iran, Libya and North Korea, Khan will remain under tight security, unable to move around at will.

"It is a conditional pardon and Khan knows he would be jailed if he tries to proliferate again in any way," a senior government official involved with the investigation into the scandal said.

The proliferation saga stretches back over two decades.

Officials said Khan was protected against any demand for his handover from a foreign country or agency after authorities registered a police dossier against the tall, greying scientist for offenses under the official secret act.

"The measures provide a protected wall around the fallen hero," one said.

According to government insiders, Khan ran a black-market network from the Middle East trading in centrifuges for uranium enrichment.

"During the last 48 months, Dr. Khan made as many as 44 foreign trips to Dubai and separately also to Malaysia, Libya and Iran," a government official said on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 68-year-old former metallurgist used his experience working with a European nuclear agency in the 1970s to enable Pakistan to build centrifuges to enrich Uranium and build a nuclear bomb.

Dubai was the springboard for his proliferation activities where centrifuges secretly built in Malaysia by a pseudo-commercial firm were brought and then passed to end users, the government official said.

"When he was in Malaysia last year we summoned him back for fears that he might be picked up by some foreign agency," he added.

Another detained Pakistani nuclear scientist, doctor Mohammad Farooq, formed the core of the proliferation network which also included individuals from South Africa, Germany, Holland, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Dubai, he said.

Farooq who was the first scientist brought in when officials launched a probe last December, after being alerted that Pakistani nuclear secrets were being traded abroad. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Corpus to Legarda …

From page A1

chaired by Biazon.

"I apologize for the foul language, *pero ang aking damdamin*, we have a senator *na nakikipaglaro sa Kanan, Kaliwa*, enemies of government," Corpus said.

Corpus, now head of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service, had earlier been reprimanded by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya for his description of Legarda.

He said yesterday that he used such language because he became emotional during an interview with a reporter the other weekend. *"Nag-alab ang aking damdamin,"* he said. "But I used 'political prostitute' because I was referring to acts of waltzing with enemies of the state."

Saycon, Sison

Corpus reiterated that Legarda was at a meeting with Pastor Saycon and members of the "Kawal Pilipino," now both under investigation for alleged destabilization activities, on Jan. 9 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

He said it was the senator who "sponsored" the meeting held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on that day.

He also said Legarda recently phoned Netherlands-based Jose Ma. Sison, political consultant of the National Democratic Front, supposedly to ask him to designate a chief spokesperson for her from the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Asked by Biazon where he got the reports, Corpus merely said he got the information that led him to hold such a "perception" of Legarda.

Corpus said he had wanted to ask the senator about these two points but she was not at the hearing.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said Corpus had evidence to pin down Legarda on her supposed links to both Left and Right forces.

But this evidence still has to be checked.

"He has evidence in his possession," Garcia said. "This has not come out in the press. But on my part, it is still raw information. As far as Corpus is concerned, we will have to prove that it goes beyond raw information. We will have to check on this."

Asked to comment, Legarda said she did not know what Corpus was talking about regarding Saycon and Kawal Pilipino.

She also said that she normally met with a lot of people and that Sison had been "a longtime friend even before politics."

"There are far more important things happening than the hallucinations of one man," she said.

Asked if she thought Corpus was sincere in the apology he aired at the Senate inquiry, Legarda said she did not hear it.

She told reporters that she was leaving Corpus "up to God," and that there was no need to "dignify" his accusations, which she said, were "a non-issue, baseless, although hurtful."

"That's part of politics. Unfortunately, *nagpapagamit siya* (he lets himself be used). It's very clear (that he has no) basis, and even [among] the generals at the hearing, nobody concurred with him." Legarda said.

Military and defense officials present at the hearing, such as deputy chief of intelligence Brig. Gen. Pedro Ramboanga, told Biazon that they had no report on Legarda's supposed ties with members of the Right and the Left.

Responding to a question from Biazon, they denied that Legarda or Saycon was under surveillance.

Biazon asked Corpus if he was implying that Legarda's alleged acts were a threat to national security.

Corpus said he could not say that, and said he was just expressing a "personal opinion."

With a report from Alcuin Papa

Baby A: Kiss and tell I ain't

From page A1

Ramos said yesterday.

Socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas said she was "deeply hurt" by former President Joseph Estrada's statement to the INQUIRER Thursday that Ramos was never honest enough to acknowledge his alleged son by her, unlike opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Arenas also took a dig at Poe for admitting on television that he had a 22-year-old son by former starlet Ana Marin.

Poe, known as "Da King" in show biz circles, has been married to actress Susan Roces since 1968.

"I don't know about the values of other people," Arenas said in a phone interview. "Things like this should not be discussed in public because if you do, it's like you're flaunting it."

"Make the public speculate, let the public talk," she added. "But don't talk about it. *Ano yon*, kiss and tell?"

Arenas said she had phoned her son, Roberto Jose Pio Antonio Arenas, in London to discuss the report on Estrada's statement.

"He is very professional," said the mother. "He said, 'I will have to read the article first.'"

Roberto, who was born in 1978 and is alleged to be Ramos' son, has lived abroad since he was 11 years old. His mother said she sent him abroad to protect him from gossip in Manila.

But stories would often reach London, and questions about his alleged father have hounded him, the mother said.

"He is hurt when people tell him that he is illegitimate," she said. "Or when people tell him, 'Oh, so your father is a president…' I have shed so many tears over this. We are hurting the innocent parties."

Ordinary life

According to Arenas, Roberto is living an ordinary life in London, where he is completing a master's degree at the London School of Economics.

"He takes the tube," she said.

She also said Roberto never enjoyed the amenities accorded VIPs even when Ramos was president. This is why, she said, she was "saddened" by Estrada's comment about the young man.

"I hold him as a dear friend," she said of the ousted President. "I sincerely believe that he has no time or facility to make a research [on the alleged affair]."

Arenas admitted that she met Ramos in 1972 "when he was not yet famous." She was then already married, "happily, but not very," to Ramon Lopez Arenas.

She became one of Ramos' chief fund-raisers and campaigners in 1992 when he ran for president.

After Ramos' victory, Arenas allegedly became one of the most influential persons outside the Cabinet.

But Arenas denied this vehemently in the interview.

"People told me I should ask for this and that, but I am not like that. I never enjoyed the amenities," she said.

Arenas said Ramos had not spoken with her regarding the report on Estrada's statement about her son.

"He doesn't have to," she said. "He knows I can handle it. That's how much he respects me. And besides, he is a man of stature."

Tell-all book

Arenas promised to "tell all at the proper time."

She said she was writing a book about herself, her friends, and the 1992 presidential campaign.

"It's a tell-all book, with lots of photos," she said.

Voters trust Comelec, but not Abalos, says survey

From page A1

In the D class, 34 percent had little trust in Abalos, 29 percent were undecided and 25 percent had much trust.

In the lowest E class, 29 percent had little trust in him while 30 percent were undecided and 23 percent gave him much trust.

Partisan support

The SWS said there was an element of partisanship in the voters' attitudes toward Abalos, the Comelec and election preparations.

It said Abalos had a slightly positive reputation among the voters with a preference for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who gave him 30 percent trust and 24 percent distrust, or a 6-percent net trust rating.

But Abalos had a negative reputation among the opposition voters. Voters favoring Sen. Panfilo Lacson gave him a negative 4 percent net trust rating (28 percent much trust minus 32 percent little trust); negative 12 percent net trust rating (24 much trust minus 36 percent little trust) among voters of Fernando Poe Jr.; and negative 17 percent net trust rating (20 percent minus 37 percent) among those for Raul Roco.

For all the low public trust in Abalos, the Comelec itself as an institution was trusted by the public, the SWS said.

ABALOS: Trust is something to think about very seriously.

Highest trust rating

It said 61 percent had much trust in the Comelec while 16 percent had little trust, giving the institution a net trust rating of 45 percent. There was an undecided 22 percent.

It was the highest trust rating obtained by the Comelec since 1991 when SWS began conducting such surveys.

The National Citizens Movement for Free Elections had almost the same trust rating as the Comelec.

Namfrel, which has been conducting an election quick count for decades, got much trust from 59 percent and little trust from 16 percent, giving it a net trust rating of 43 percent. Sixteen percent were undecided.

Among the "partisan" groups, the Comelec is trusted by 68 percent of the Macapagal-voters, 60 percent of Poe-voters, 57 percent of the Roco-voters and 55 percent of the Lacson-voters.

The Comelec's automated vote-counting looked corrupt to a 58 percent majority of the respondents, with 26 percent saying there was "definite" corruption and 32 percent "probable" corruption.

Only 15 percent said the deal was definitely clean (6 percent) or probably clean (9 percent). Some 27 percent said they did not know enough to judge.

Suspicious deal

The SWS said suspicion about the deal was widespread and particularly high in Metro Manila (65 percent) and the Visayas (62 percent), and among the middle-to-upper classes (65 percent).

Of those that suspected corruption in the contract, 40 percent distrusted Abalos and only 26 percent trusted him.

The SWS said three of every four registered voters disagreed with the suggestion that the presidential election be postponed to give the Comelec time to prepare for a shift to the manual counting system instead of the automated system it had been planning to implement.

Opposed to postponement

Asked whether it was reasonable to postpone the election, 74 percent disagreed while 26 percent agreed.

Opposition to postponement was high in terms of area—from 62 percent in Mindanao to 81 percent in the rest of Luzon, and social classes—66 percent among the very poor E class to 88 percent among the ABC classes.

Prestige Cars BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure

Low 25% Downpayment*
and Low Interest*

BMW Certified Pre-Owned
Sometimes brand is more important than new

- With only a 25% downpayment, you can drive away with the **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned vehicle of your choice. Then, pay the balance through monthly installments at low interest rates—4% lower than banks.
- **We accept trade-ins** Now you can trade in your car, whether its brand is Japanese, American, European, or whatever make and model, for any of our **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned cars. This offer is exclusive to Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) only.
- To test drive our **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned vehicles that guarantee your driving pleasure, visit our showroom, open everyday from 8AM to 7PM.

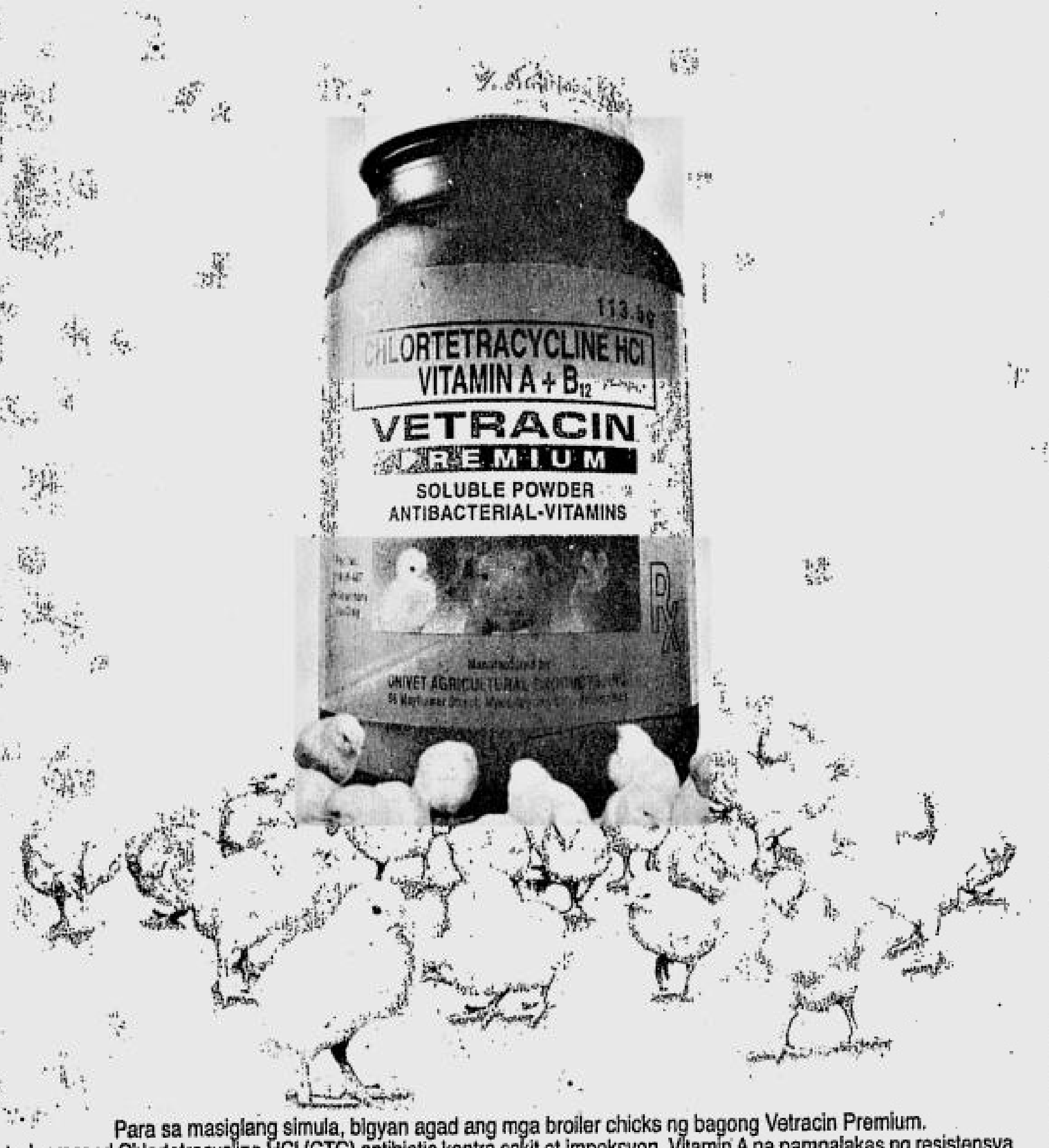
*Subject to bank approval.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars:

BMW 316i 2002 Alpine White, 19,200 km, P1,175,000	**BMW 318i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 1,000 km, P2,175,000	
BMW 316i 2003 Titanium Silver, 3,000 km, P1,550,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2002 Oxford Green, 19,000 km, P2,050,000	**BMW 316i** 1996 Alpine White, 101,100 km, P620,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Black Sapphire, 7,800 km, P1,600,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 13,000 km, P2,250,000	**BMW 316i** 1996 Cosmos Black, 57,000 km, P630,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Orient Blue, 4,200 km, P1,680,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 7,100 km, P2,530,000	**BMW 316i** 1997 Boston Green, 60,000 km, P650,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Black Sapphire, 2,000 km, P1,700,000	**BMW 325i M Sport** 2003 Black Sapphire, 1,900 km, P2,580,000	**BMW 523iA** 1996 Arktis Silver, 80,000 km, P1,280,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Orient Blue, 2,000 km, P1,700,000	**BMW 525i Exec** 2003 Sterling Gray, 2,800 km, P3,200,000	
BMW 318i Exec 2003 Oxford Green, 15,000 km, P1,950,000	**BMW X5 3.0d Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 2,900 km, P4,480,000	

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • CPO Direct Line (02) 812 7950 Trunkline (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Toll-free Hotline 1-800-10-BMW-CARS • E-mail bmwcertifiedpreowned@prestigemakati.com

Alaga ko, laking Vetracin Premium



Para sa masiglang simula, bigyan agad ang mga broiler chicks ng bagong Vetracin Premium.
Increased Chlortetracycline HCl (CTC) antibiotic kontra sakit at impeksyon, Vitamin A na pampalakas ng resistensya at Vitamin B12 na pampagana. Subok na mabisa, lalo na sa kritikal na unang dalawang linggo ng broiler chicks.
Sa Vetracin Premium, tuloy-tuloy ang alaga, tuloy-tuloy ang kita!

VETRACIN PREMIUM

EXTRA PROTEKSIYON,
EXTRA ALAGA!

An ISO 9002 Certified Company

UNIVET
Kaagapay n'yo sa kabuhayan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Corpus to Legarda ...

From page A1

chaired by Biazon.

"I apologize for the foul language, *pero ang aking damdamin*, we have a senator *na nakikipaglaro sa Kanan, Kaliwa*, enemies of government," Corpus said.

Corpus, now head of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service, had earlier been reprimanded by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya for his description of Legarda.

He said yesterday that he used such language because he became emotional during an interview with a reporter the other weekend. *"Nag-alab ang aking damdamin,"* he said. "But I used 'political prostitute' because I was referring to acts of waltzing with enemies of the state."

Saycon, Sison

Corpus reiterated that Legarda was at a meeting with Pastor Saycon and members of the "Kawal Pilipino," now both under investigation for alleged destabilization activities, on Jan. 9 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

He said it was the senator who "sponsored" the meeting held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on that day.

He also said Legarda recently phoned Netherlands-based Jose Ma. Sison, political consultant of the National Democratic Front, supposedly to ask him to designate a chief spokesperson for her from the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Asked by Biazon where he got the reports, Corpus merely said he got the information that led him to hold such a "perception" of Legarda.

Corpus said he had wanted to ask the senator about these two points but she was not at the hearing.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said Corpus had evidence to pin down Legarda on her supposed links to both Left and Right forces.

But this evidence still has to be checked.

"He has evidence in his possession," Garcia said. "This has not come out in the press. But on my part, it is still raw information. As far as Corpus is concerned, we will have to prove that it goes beyond raw information. We will have to check on this."

Asked to comment, Legarda said she did not know what Corpus was talking about regarding Saycon and Kawal Pilipino.

She also said that she normally met with a lot of people and that Sison had been "a long-time friend even before politics."

"There are far more important things happening than the hallucinations of one man," she said.

Asked if she thought Corpus was sincere in the apology he aired at the Senate inquiry, Legarda said she did not hear it.

She told reporters that she was leaving Corpus "up to God," and that there was no need to "dignify" his accusations, which she said, were "a non-issue, baseless, although hurtful."

"That's part of politics. Unfortunately, *nagpapagamit siya* (he lets himself be used). It's very clear (that he has no) basis, and even [among] the generals at the hearing, nobody concurred with him," Legarda said.

Military and defense officials present at the hearing, such as deputy chief of intelligence Brig. Gen. Pedro Ramboanga, told Biazon that they had no report on Legarda's supposed ties with members of the Right and the Left.

Responding to a question from Biazon, they denied that Legarda or Saycon was under surveillance.

Biazon asked Corpus if he was implying that Legarda's alleged acts were a threat to national security.

Corpus said he could not say that, and said he was just expressing a "personal opinion."

With a report from Alcuin Papa

Baby A: Kiss and tell I ain't

From page A1

Ramos said yesterday.

Socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas said she was "deeply hurt" by former President Joseph Estrada's statement to the INQUIRER Thursday that Ramos was never honest enough to acknowledge his alleged son by her, unlike opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Arenas also took a dig at Poe for admitting on television that he had a 22-year-old son by former starlet Ana Marin.

Poe, known as "Da King" in show biz circles, has been married to actress Susan Roces since 1968.

"I don't know about the values of other people," Arenas said in a phone interview. "Things like this should not be discussed in public because if you do, it's like you're flaunting it."

"Make the public speculate, let the public talk," she added. "But don't talk about it. *Ano yon*, kiss and tell?"

Arenas said she had phoned her son, Roberto Jose Pio Antonio Arenas, in London to discuss the report on Estrada's statement.

"He is very professional," said the mother. "He said, 'I will have to read the article first.'"

Roberto, who was born in 1978 and is alleged to be Ramos' son, has lived abroad since he was 11 years old. His mother said she sent him abroad to protect him from gossip in Manila.

But stories would often reach London, and questions about his alleged father have hounded him, the mother said.

"He is hurt when people tell him that he is illegitimate," she said. "Or when people tell him, 'Oh, so your father is a president...' I have shed so many tears over this. We are hurting the innocent parties."

Ordinary life

According to Arenas, Roberto is living an ordinary life in London, where he is completing a master's degree at the London School of Economics.

"He takes the tube," she said.

She also said Roberto never enjoyed the amenities accorded VIPs even when Ramos was president. This is why, she said, she was "saddened" by Estrada's comment about the young man.

"I hold him as a dear friend," she said of the ousted President. "I sincerely believe that he has no time or facility to make a research [on the alleged affair]."

Arenas admitted that she met Ramos in 1972 "when he was not yet famous." She was then already married, "happily, but not very," to Ramon Lopez Arenas.

She became one of Ramos' chief fund-raisers and campaigners in 1992 when he ran for president.

After Ramos' victory, Arenas allegedly became one of the most influential persons outside the Cabinet.

But Arenas denied this vehemently in the interview.

"People told me I should ask for this and that, but I am not like that. I never enjoyed the amenities," she said.

Arenas said Ramos had not spoken with her regarding the report on Estrada's statement about her son.

"He doesn't have to," she said. "He knows I can handle it. That's how much he respects me. And besides, he is a man of stature."

Tell-all book

Arenas promised to "tell all at the proper time."

She said she was writing a book about herself, her friends, and the 1992 presidential campaign.

"It's a tell-all book, with lots of photos," she said.

Voters trust Comelec, but not Abalos, says survey

From page A1

In the D class, 34 percent had little trust in Abalos, 29 percent were undecided and 25 percent had much trust.

In the lowest E class, 29 percent had little trust in him while 30 percent were undecided and 23 percent gave him much trust.

ABALOS: Trust is something to think about very seriously.

Partisan support

The SWS said there was an element of partisanship in the voters' attitudes toward Abalos, the Comelec and election preparations.

It said Abalos had a slightly positive reputation among the voters with a preference for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who gave him 30 percent trust and 24 percent distrust, or a 6-percent net trust rating.

But Abalos had a negative reputation among the opposition voters. Voters favoring Sen. Panfilo Lacson gave him a negative 4 percent net trust rating (28 percent much trust minus 32 percent little trust); negative 12 percent net trust rating (24 much trust minus 36 percent little trust) among voters of Fernando Poe Jr.; and negative 17 percent net trust rating (20 percent minus 37 percent) among those for Raul Roco.

For all the low public trust in Abalos, the Comelec itself as an institution was trusted by the public, the SWS said.

Highest trust rating

It said 61 percent had much trust in the Comelec while 16 percent had little trust, giving the institution a net trust rating of 45 percent. There was an undecided 22 percent.

It was the highest trust rating obtained by the Comelec since 1991 when SWS began conducting such surveys.

The National Citizens Movement for Free Elections had almost the same trust rating as the Comelec.

Namfrel, which has been conducting an election quick count for decades, got much trust from 59 percent and little trust from 16 percent, giving it a net trust rating of 43 percent. Sixteen percent were undecided.

Among the "partisan" groups, the Comelec is trusted by 68 percent of the Macapagal-voters, 60 percent of Poe-voters, 57 percent of the Roco-voters and 55 percent of the Lacson-voters.

The Comelec's automated vote-counting looked corrupt to a 58 percent majority of the respondents, with 26 percent saying there was "definite" corruption and 32 percent "probable" corruption.

Only 15 percent said the deal was definitely clean (6 percent) or probably clean (9 percent). Some 27 percent said they did not know enough to judge.

Suspicious deal

The SWS said suspicion about the deal was widespread and particularly high in Metro Manila (65 percent) and the Visayas (62 percent), and among the middle-to-upper classes (65 percent).

Of those that suspected corruption in the contract, 40 percent distrusted Abalos and only 26 percent trusted him.

The SWS said three of every four registered voters disagreed with the suggestion that the presidential election be postponed to give the Comelec time to prepare for a shift to the manual counting system instead of the automated system [illegible] had been planning to implement.

Opposed to postponement

Asked whether it [illegible] reasonable to postpone the election, 74 percen disagreed while 26 percent agreed.

Opposition to postponement wa high in terms of area- from 62 percent in Mindanao to 81 percent in th rest of Luzon, and social classes -6 percent among the very poor E clas to 88 percent among the ABC class

Low 25% Downpayment*
and Low Interest*

BMW Certified Pre-Owned
Sometimes brand is more important than new

- With only a 25% downpayment, you can drive away with the **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned vehicle of your choice. Then, pay the balance through monthly installments at low interest rates—4% lower than banks.
- **We accept trade-ins**
Now you can trade in your car, whether its brand is Japanese, American, European, or whatever make and model, for any of our **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned cars. This offer is exclusive to Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) only.
- To test drive our **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned vehicles that guarantee your driving pleasure, visit our showroom, open everyday from 8AM to 7PM.

*Subject to bank approval.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars

BMW 316i 2002 Alpine White, 19,200 km, P1,175,000	**BMW 318i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 1,000 km, P2,175,000	
BMW 316i 2003 Titanium Silver, 3,000 km, P1,550,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2002 Oxford Green, 19,000 km, P2,050,000	**BMW 316i** 1996 Alpine White, 101,100 km, P620,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Black Sapphire, 7,800 km, P1,600,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 13,000 km, P2,250,000	**BMW 316i** 1996 Cosmos Black, 57,000 km, P630,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Orient Blue, 4,200 km, P1,680,000	**BMW 325i Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 7,100 km, P2,530,000	**BMW 316i** 1997 Boston Green, 60,000 km, P650,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Black Sapphire, 2,000 km, P1,700,000	**BMW 325i M Sport** 2003 Black Sapphire, 1,900 km, P2,580,000	**BMW 523iA** 1996 Arktis Silver, 80,000 km, P1,280,000
BMW 318i Limo 2003 Orient Blue, 2,000 km, P1,700,000	**BMW 525i Exec** 2003 Sterling Gray, 2,800 km, P3,200,000	
BMW 318i Exec 2003 Oxford Green, 15,000 km P1,950,000	**BMW X5 3.0d Exec** 2003 Titanium Silver, 2,900 km, P4 480,000	

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • CPO Direct Line (02) 812-7950 Trunkline (02) 892-8127 to 29 • Toll-free Hotline 1-800-10-BMW-CARS • E-mail [illegible]

Alaga ko, laking Vetracin Premium

113.5g
CHLORTETRACYCLINE HCl
VITAMIN A + B12
VETRACIN
PREMIUM
SOLUBLE POWDER
ANTIBACTERIAL-VITAMINS
UNIVET AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Para sa masiglang simula, bigyan agad ang mga broiler chicks ng bagong Vetracin Premium.
Increased Chlortetracycline HCl (CTC) antibiotic kontra sakit at impeksyon, Vitamin A na pampalakas ng resistensya at Vitamin B12 na pampagana. Subok na mabisa, lalo na sa kritikal na unang dalawang linggo ng broiler chicks.
Sa Vetracin Premium, tuloy-tuloy ang alaga, tuloy-tuloy ang kita!

VETRACIN PREMIUM

EXTRA PROTEKSIYON,
EXTRA ALAGA!

An ISO 9002 Certified Company

UNIVET
Kaagapay n'yo sa kabuhayan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Her lifestyle. Her plan.

The new fully-consumable Ⓖ Flex Plan, suited for any woman.

Whether you like calling, texting, or sending photo-messages, Globe now offers you the plan that matches your lifestyle. Avail of the Ⓖ Flex Plan now and get the latest and most desirable phones free!

So visit the nearest Globe Business Center or Hub now.

Avail of this promo and get a 3-month credit insurance coverage* for free, upon activation of your line. Promo period: Jan. 30 to Feb. 29, 2004. See flyers for details.

*Marketed by: Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines In

Yes! I want my Globe Handyphone delivered to me FREE!

CALL 751-8888 OR FAX TO 739-9999.

NAME ____ Last Name First Name Middle Name
HOME ADDRESS ____ No. Street Barangay
____ City Zip Code
BIRTHDAY ____ mm/dd/yy SPOUSE NAME ____
HOME CONTACT NO. ____ MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME ____
OFFICE/COMPANY NAME ____

BUSINESS ADDRESS ____ No. Street
____ Barangay
____ City Zip Code
BUSINESS TEL NO. ____
PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE
CREDIT CARD NAME
☐ BPI ☐ Citibank ☐ Diners Club
☐ Equitable ☐ Unicard ☐ Standard Chartered
CREDIT CARD NO. ____
EXPIRY DATE ____ 3 Digits at the Back of Card ____

☐ ONE-TIME PAYMENT ☐ INSTALLMENT
Installment Term ☐ 3 ☐ 6 ☐ 9 ☐ 12 months
CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS
☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE ☐ OTHERS ____
Choice Handset ____
Choice Plan (ex:G-Flex 1200) ____
SIGNATURE ____
DELIVERY DATE / TIME ____
Accomplish this form and fax it to us together with the application requirements and a photocopy of your credit card showing both sides.

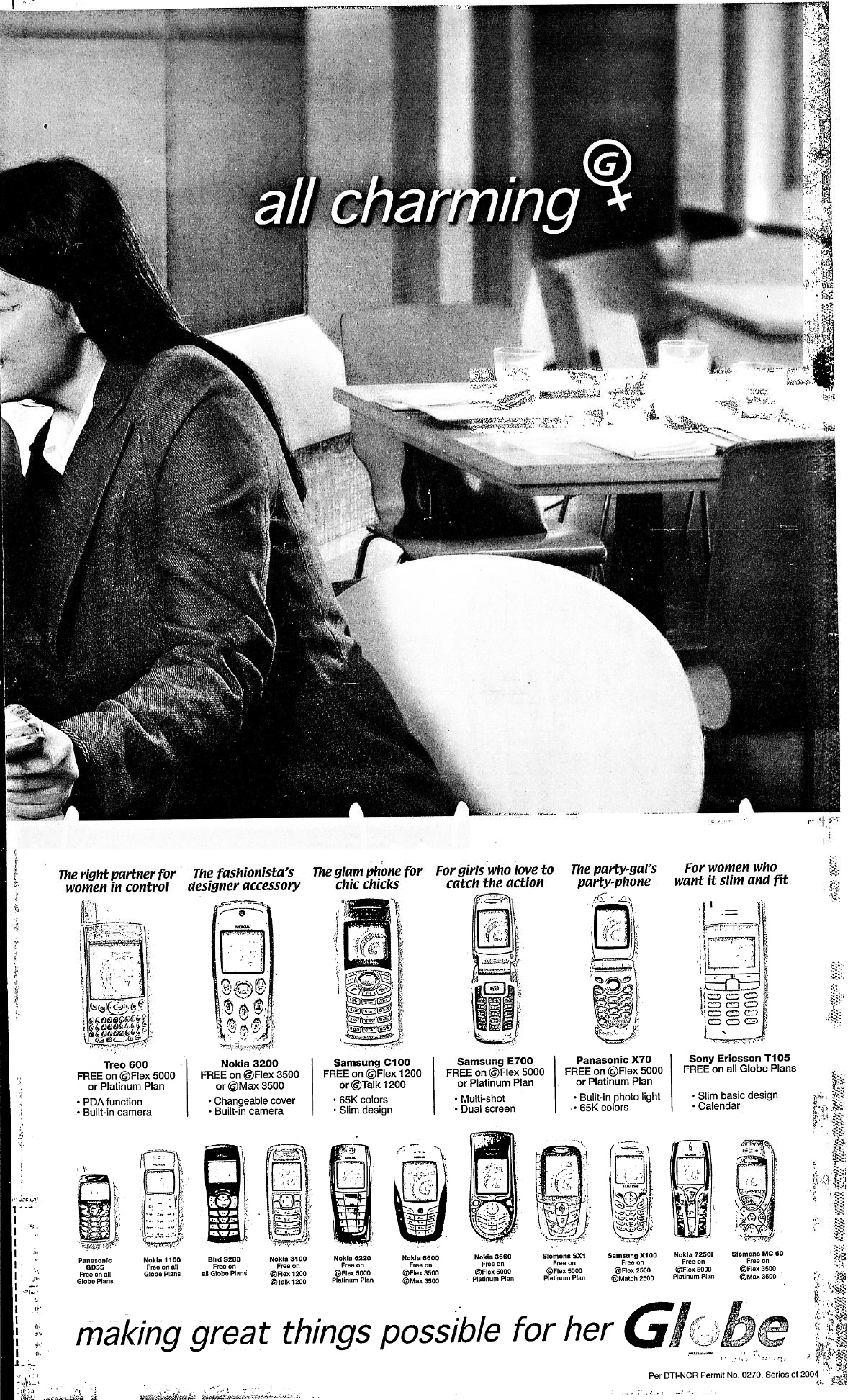
The new all-consumable Ⓖ Flex Plan!

	Consumable Amount	Free SMS	GHP-GHP	GHP- non-GHP
Ⓖ Flex 800	₱ 800	200	₱ 6.50	₱ 7.00
Ⓖ Flex 1,200	₱ 1,200	250	₱ 6.00	₱ 6.50
Ⓖ Flex 1,800	₱ 1,800	300	₱ 5.00	₱ 6.00
Ⓖ Flex 2,500	₱ 2,500	350	₱ 4.50	₱ 5.50
Ⓖ Flex 3,500	₱ 3,500	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50
Ⓖ Flex 5,000	₱ 5,000	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50

	MSF	Free Text	Free Mins.	GHP-GHP	GHP- non-GHP
Ⓖ Text	₱ 500	500	20	₱ 6.00	₱ 7.50
Ⓖ Mix	₱ 800	350	100	₱ 5.50	₱ 7.00
Ⓖ Talk	₱1,200	350	210	₱ 5.00	₱ 6.50
Ⓖ Talk Plus	₱1,800	450	350	₱ 4.50	₱ 6.00
Ⓖ Match	₱2,500	550	500	₱ 4.00	₱ 5.50
Ⓖ Max	₱3,500	650	750	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50
Platinum	₱5,000	650	1,100	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50

How to subscribe: Bring valid ID, proof of billing address and financial documents. For switchers, present 2 paid non-Globe bills for the last 3 months together with the old GSM SIM. Current charges in the bill should total the minimum required amount of your desired plan. Conditions: Subject to a two-year subscription lock. Closure of plan under 24 months is subject to a termination fee of ₱10,000, or handset price per line, whichever is higher. G-Flex rates are inclusive of VAT and Currency Exchange Rate Adjustmen (CERA). Free text allocation applies to local text messages (Globe to Globe & Globe to other networks). Free call allocation applies to local calls (Globe to Globe, Globe to other networks, Globe to landline, NDD calls)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



all charming

The right partner for women in control

Treo 600
FREE on ⓖFlex 5000
or Platinum Plan
- PDA function
- Built-in camera

The fashionista's designer accessory

Nokia 3200
FREE on ⓖFlex 3500
or ⓖMax 3500
- Changeable cover
- Built-in camera

The glam phone for chic chicks

Samsung C100
FREE on ⓖFlex 1200
or ⓖTalk 1200
- 65K colors
- Slim design

For girls who love to catch the action

Samsung E700
FREE on ⓖFlex 5000
or Platinum Plan
- Multi-shot
- Dual screen

The party-gal's party-phone

Panasonic X70
FREE on ⓖFlex 5000
or Platinum Plan
- Built-in photo light
- 65K colors

For women who want it slim and fit

Sony Ericsson T105
FREE on all Globe Plans
- Slim basic design
- Calendar

Panasonic GD55
Free on all Globe Plans

Nokia 1100
Free on all Globe Plans

Bird S288
Free on all Globe Plans

Nokia 3100
Free on
ⓖFlex 1200
ⓖTalk 1200

Nokia 6220
Free on
ⓖFlex 5000
Platinum Plan

Nokia 6600
Free on
ⓖFlex 3500
ⓖMax 3500

Nokia 3660
Free on
ⓖFlex 5000
Platinum Plan

Siemens SX1
Free on
ⓖFlex 5000
Platinum Plan

Samsung X100
Free on
ⓖFlex 2500
ⓖMatch 2500

Nokia 7250i
Free on
ⓖFlex 5000
Platinum Plan

Siemens MC 60
Free on
ⓖFlex 3500
ⓖMax 3500

making great things possible for her **Globe**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0270, Series of 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004
ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 61
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Who's afraid of FPJ?

EDITORIAL

THE RATE of inflation is quite low, and the gross national product grew faster than expected at 5.5 percent last year. And yet the peso is being battered while other Asian currencies are going strong against the dollar. Last Tuesday, the local currency fell to its lowest level, closing at P56.20 to $1, highlighting a steady decline in the last few months. Why?

Economic analysts blame the peso's fall on a rise in economic and political uncertainties. On the economic side, there are the national government's huge yearly budget deficits (it reached P198.7 billion last year) and the country's mounting foreign debt, which now stands at $56.3 billion. Warnings have been issued by various sectors, including Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, that unless the government finds a way to reduce its deficit, a financial crisis could develop as early as two years from today. In the scariest scenario, the London-based Standard Chartered Bank warned that Argentina's experience could be replicated here if the new administration failed to undertake financial reforms and restore investor confidence. (Almost two years ago, Argentina was torn by riots after the government defaulted on its debts and banks limited withdrawals, forcing a series of changes in the country's leadership.)

But economics cannot fully explain the current plight of the peso. During its recent plunge to a record low, it was noted that corporate demand for dollars was not even a factor since it usually reaches a peak toward the end of the month.

Apparently speculators have been quite busy lately, taking advantage of the market's anxieties over certain events that promised to bring more political instability to the country. One was that puny mutiny staged by five Army captains who exposed an alleged plan of the administration to use the military to restrict the movement of opposition presidential candidates, and demanded the resignation of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Very few people took the threat seriously, so it could not have been enough to sink the peso to a historic low.

What is creating increasing anxiety among investors and businessmen is the possibility that the country would end up with actor Fernando Poe Jr. as president. Poe's supporters will of course deny it, but the prospect of having somebody with no political experience holding the reins of government does not brighten the economic picture. The Makati Business Club delivered this message very clearly when not a single member voted for Poe during a recent survey.

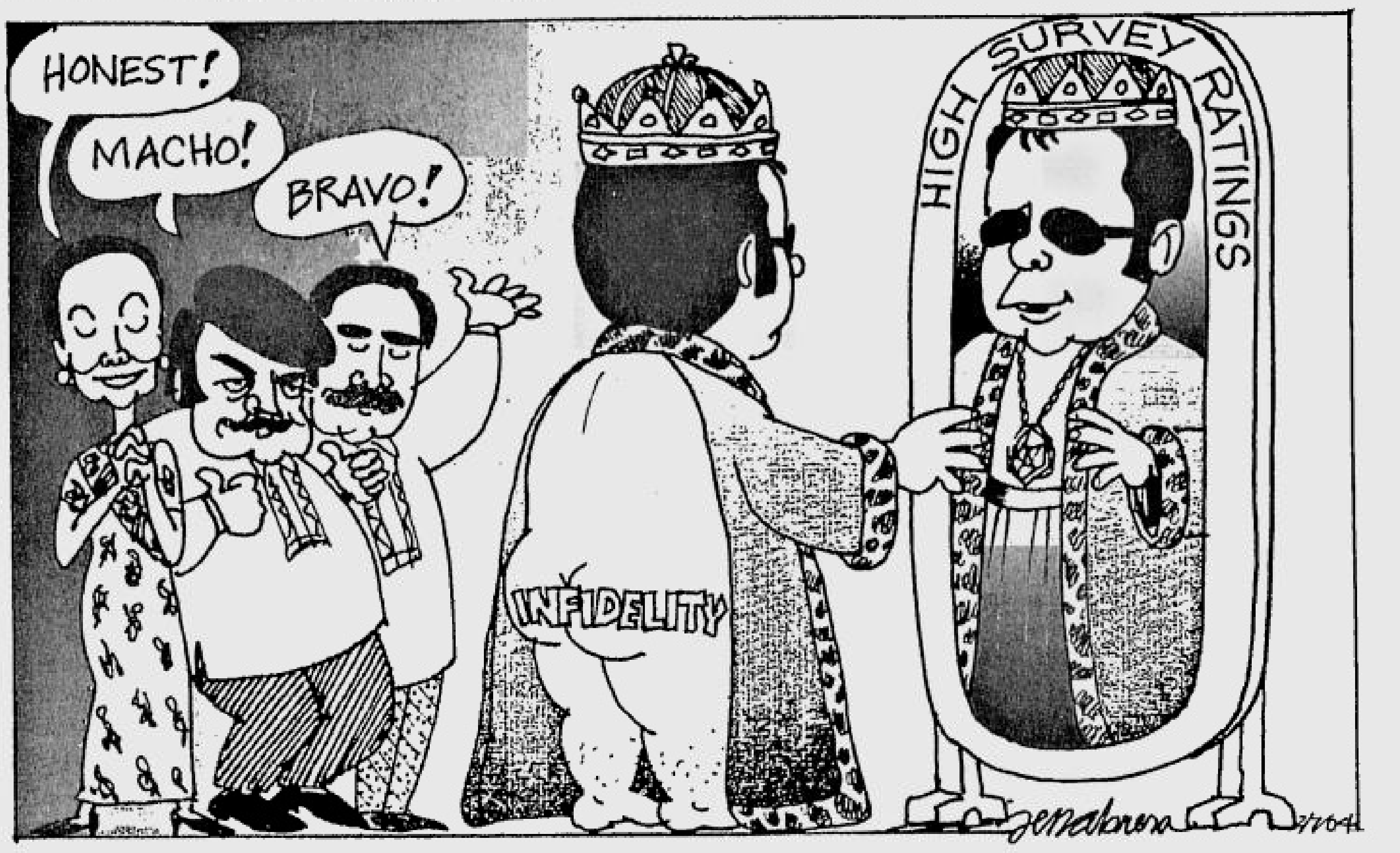
Both the currency and stock markets have reflected the business community's fear of a Poe presidency, falling every time his political fortune rises. Sharp drops in the peso's value followed Poe's announcement that he was running for president, the Commission on Elections' dismissal of a petition to disqualify him for not being a natural-born Filipino citizen, and more recently the release of the results of a Social Weather Stations survey showing him leading the pack with 36 percent going for him. The first time it happened can be considered as a coincidence, but the third establishes a pattern. The next question is: Where will the peso be if Poe actually gets elected?

With the official campaign season set to begin next week, Poe has yet to unveil his economic program. All that he has revealed is that his advisers are working on it. When pressed to offer solutions to a specific economic problem, his standard reply is, "*Trabaho lang tayo.*"

Worse, he has practically written off the business community. "If they lack confidence in me," he said in a television interview, "the people lack confidence in our government. My platform is not just for them but for the people." He said his critics in the upper class were not aware of the real problem facing Filipinos. "The problems (they cite) are not what (people) are thinking. They are thinking of what they will eat today and what they will eat tomorrow."

Poe is right. The most urgent problem of many Filipinos is how to put food on their table. But it should be asked how he proposes to help them get what they need. Can he do it without addressing the other problems like the budget deficit and our huge foreign debt? Can he do it without first restoring investor confidence? Can he do it without the cooperation and support of the business community?

Maybe he can—if all this is in a movie.


HONEST!
MACHO!
BRAVO!
HIGH SURVEY RATINGS
INFIDELITY

The cowardly Kawal

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE not seen a more absurd sight than the video last week of the Kawal Pilipino soldiers hiding behind their improvised flag as they recited their complaints against the administration. It would have been comical if it was not so ridiculous. These so-called soldiers were not brave enough to show their faces for fear, obviously, of being punished for their protests. They were being bold but only as long as they were anonymous.

If you ask me, they deserve to be disciplined for their cowardice. They could be convicted of sedition or any similarly dangerous offense against the national security or public order. But in my book they are already guilty of foolishness and, more seriously, of cowardice.

Cowardice is the trait one might least expect from the professional soldier. A person chooses a military career because he is prepared to meet all kinds of danger, including injury to mind and body and even death itself. He is supposed to face such danger, not flee from it. Or even just hide from it. This is what those Kawal Pilipino cowards did when they articulated their defiance of the authorities while behind an extra-large flag designed to cover them. They wanted to prevent their recognition by the audience they were addressing; it was like sending an unsigned poison pen letter from one afraid to be recognized.

Some months ago, I wrote in this column about a general who was photographed while being carried piggy-back to prevent his wading in the shallow water and getting his feet wet. His American comrades-in-arms were not as fastidious and walked ashore, boots and all, with nary a thought about their pedicure. They did not have to be carried by puny Filipinos to save their dainty toes from contamination. They were not deterred by the fear of angry alligators or at least queasy lizards and wriggly worms. Not as valiant, our finicky general was, for acting like a delicate lady, guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The Kawal Pilipino soldiers are a worse embarrassment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They do not deserve to be soldiers. Everyone must have the courage to stand up and be counted, but those so-called defenders of the nation were lacking in that essential virtue. Even ordinary persons without the extraordinary bravery expected of a member of the armed forces do not hesitate to stand by their word and be identified with it. The Kawal protesters hid behind their extra-large flag and dishonored it.

All these precautions, as it turned out later, were futile because the members of their group were soon revealed. There were only five of them although there were insidious forces that had prompted their ridiculous adventure. Their spokesman, who called himself Captain Gabay, was using this assumed name and was not a military officer at all. Their alleged leader was Capt. Edwin Navarro, son of retired Gen. Pedro Navarro, a member of the Copa and president of the Association of Generals for Poe.

I am making these comments without any political motivation but only to criticize the weird action taken by the Kawal Pilipino members who hid behind their oversize Philippine flag while announcing their manifesto. I include in this criticism those influential figures who, while safely remaining in the background, secretly led the deluded Kawal Pilipino soldiers to make a sorry spectacle of themselves.

This column is not in any way defending the President Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Eduardo Ermita, whom they attacked for politicking against her electoral rivals. I am not critical either of the report that Kawal Pilipino is siding with Fernando Poe Jr. and has been manipulated by Copa's Pastor Saycon, who is known to be hostile to GMA and supporting FPJ. There is also the irrelevant happenstance that I don't seriously take grown persons answering to the name of "Boy."

The fact that the government has seen fit to file sedition charges against Saycon is simply noted here. It is for the prosecutors to establish his alleged criminal acts and not for me to speculate on his innocence or guilt. I make the same observations regarding the announced support of the suspects for Fernando Poe Jr. who, to his credit, has not been actively and personally linked to the aborted attempt of the soldiers and their sponsors to reform the government according to their own designs.

It is worth observing, though, that the FPJ camp, for whose benefit the fledging "coup" was conceived, has not done or said anything to disown the Kawal Pilipino and its loyal followers. It would be a simple thing for FPJ to disavow his alliance with the misguided soldiers, but he has not done so to date. Does his silence betoken acquiescence and even implied support, at least, for his hide-behind-the-flag Magnificent Five? Or he is just being characteristically silent on the cautious theory that no comment will breed no mistakes unless it really only means no brains.

The misadventure of the Kawal Pilipino group is yet another proof of the aberration of Philippine politics. You can expect more inanities as the election campaign heats up.

Question of credibility

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

FIRST, there was Norman Bordadora's report (PDI, 2/2/04) on his interview with Robert Heafner, FBI Legal Attaché assigned to the US Embassy in Manila from 1989 to 1998. Heafner, who has no axe to grind, reiterated his belief that Hubert Webb was innocent of the murder of the Vizconde women, based on the results of his investigation on the whereabouts of Hubert, as requested at various times by NBI Director Alfredo Lim and Assistant Director Epimaco Velasco in 1991, by Director Velasco in 1993, by acting Director Antonio Aragon in 1995, and by Director Mariano Mison, also in 1995—as well as by then Immigration Commissioner Leandro Verceles, and then Justice Secretary Tito Guingona. Heafner was quoted as saying, "the evidence that we gathered and provided were so overwhelming that they would have been accepted in most US courts."

The next day, there was Mon Tulfo's column on the same subject. Mon also believes that Hubert Webb is innocent. His belief, as he reiterates, is based on his own investigation—he went to the United States as part of his research for a TV show on Webb. I don't know how long he was there, but he, like Heafner, has no axe to grind, and came back absolutely convinced that Hubert could not have done it. Mon wrote his column, he says, despite advise from well-meaning friends that he would get into trouble if he did.

Then two days ago, lawyer Sal Panelo suggested that I write about Hubert again. He'd read my previous columns on the case, and knew that I believe in Hubert's innocence. It turns out that he is of the same belief, and thinks that Hubert was framed. What convinced him? "Two very simple but significant things," he said. The first was when Jessica Alfaro didn't recognize Tony Lejano (one of Hubert's six co-accused, whom she claimed to know) as she was asked to identify him among the crowd—even when she passed him three times in the courtroom. "That was a dead giveaway. I knew at once that she was lying about her testimony—if she knew him well, how could she forget his face?"

The second, he says, is an issue that was never brought up in court. "Webb and his co-accused were the third group accused by the NBI. The first group of people charged were acquitted. The charges the NBI brought against the second group also didn't prosper. If the NBI was wrong the first two times, wouldn't that give anyone reason to doubt that it was right the third time around?" Especially when even within the NBI, there was disagreement, based on their "evidence," about whether or not to file charges against Webb and his group.

We're not the only ones. Columnist Teddy Benigno, who has written several times on it, will "stake his all" that Hubert is innocent. Rene Saguisag has a standing challenge (as yet unmet) that he will eat his column if anyone can prove that Hubert Webb was in the Philippines between March 1991 and October 1992.

So the P3,596.80 ($64 at the current exchange rate) question is this: If Hubert is innocent, why then was he found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the so-called Vizconde Massacre? Why has he been rotting, almost literally, in jail for nine years?

One can, of course, read through the 180-page decision of Judge Tolentino (now Court of Appeals justice—one of the more unfortunate appointments of President Macapagal-Arroyo; the only apparent basis for the choice being that the two are provincemates). But perhaps it would be better not to bother—it is reputed to be used by would-be judges in the Philippine Judicial Academy as an example of how *not* to decide a case.

If one were to seek a one-sentence explanation of the decision, it would be this: Judge Tolentino, in her wisdom, concluded that the testimony (certifications) of the US State Department, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, US Customs, and the evidence gathered by the US FBI were less credible than the testimony of Jessica Alfaro.

Or, if one is allowed a longer answer, it would be that Judge Tolentino ignored the paper trail (flight manifests, entry records, cancelled checks, receipts, licenses, log books) left by Hubert Webb while he was in the United States, as painstakingly reconstructed by the FBI. She believed the word of a domestic helper (who, while claiming to be employed by the Webbs, did not remember the effect of the Pinatubo eruption which occurred two weeks before the Vizconde massacre) against the evidence of a Philippine senator's official passport. The maid testified, among other things, that she had a conversation with Freddie Webb, Hubert's father, on the morning after the murder, at a time when Freddie's passport shows that he and his wife were in the United States (they had gone to visit Hubert). And she took the word of a former drug addict (whose brother was in danger of being jailed for drug pushing) who stumbled many times during her testimony, over those of, among others, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, NBI Director Epimaco Velasco, NCRFW Commissioner Sonja Rodriguez and Justice Antonio Carpio.

Because of a decision that flies in the face of the facts and defies all logic, Hubert Webb is in jail. While the judge, promoted to the Court of Appeals, has even applied for a seat in the Supreme Court. The twists of fate.

If the Supreme Court upholds the conviction, I will invite Teddy Benigno, Mon Tulfo, and Rene Saguisag for a column-eating dinner—and weep for justice denied.

For non-partisan Comelec commissioners

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PRESIDENT is giving serious thought to the people she will appoint to the two recent vacancies in the Comelec, and this is as it should be. But I sincerely hope she will appoint individuals with sterling reputations for competence, independent-mindedness and perhaps most importantly, integrity. If President Macapagal-Arroyo appoints non-partisan personalities to the Comelec, this will signal that she is serious about keeping the elections fair and honest; but if she chooses people known to be very close to her, it would hurt that perception. For starters, it would be a good idea not to appoint anyone from The Firm; after all, they already have a lot of people in the administration. Moreover, the two Comelec vacancies ought to be filled up soon, as there's plenty of work ahead and every commissioner is going to have his hands full.

* * *

The revival of the Jose Pidal hearings in the Senate can only be viewed as political harassment by the opposition. As has been pointed out, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who himself chose not to show up at the recent hearing, has failed to show that the monies deposited in the Pidal accounts were ill-gotten. Lacson's failure to substantiate his charges was cited by Blue Ribbon chair Joker Arroyo as his reason for refusing to be party to the hearing revival by Senators Serge Osmeña and Edgardo Angara. What surprises me is that the latter senators didn't bother to disguise their tactics at all; this was evident in the way they third-degreed National Archives Director Ricardo Manapat at the Senate hearing that Angara (whose hand-picked candidate stands to benefit from the exposè against Manapat) called for, and where witnesses were staged-managed by his aide. *Delicadeza* should have dictated that Angara inhibit himself from that hearing.

* * *

One of the questions in the illegitimacy charge against FPJ is whether the Paulita Gomez affidavit, supposedly submitted to support the charge of bigamy against Gomez's husband Allan Poe, is an authentic document. Ranged against that affidavit are the two documents submitted to the Comelec by FPJ's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, namely, the 1940 marriage contract between Allan Poe and Bessie Kelly and FPJ's 1939 birth certificate, showing him clearly as illegitimate. Lost in the din of all the hearings is the fact that the documents Mendoza submitted to the Comelec themselves saw light for the first time on that day, as they came from the Poe family and no agency seems to have any record of them. What is significant, however, is that Gomez's affidavit does not contradict any of the facts in the two Poe documents: she merely asserted that she and Allan Poe were married in 1936, but that he had been living with another woman since 1938, and in fact had sired one daughter that year and one son (FPJ) in 1939; this was why she filed for bigamy. Assuming Gomez's affidavit was fake, how could the faker have known about the Poe documents submitted by Mendoza?

* * *

Amy Bonotan of 173 M. Paterno St., San Juan, is appealing to Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza to cancel his project, "Lovapalooza," and she's perfectly justified in her objections. For this project Atienza has invited 5,000 couples to kiss simultaneously for 10 seconds along the bay on Valentine's Day, in the hope of beating the Guinness Book record set by an equal number of couples in Santiago, Chile last month. This was confirmed by Atienza's spokesman, Armand Sebastian. In fact, reports say smooching booths are being made and the kissing session will be led by no less than Atienza and wife Beng.

* * *

Bonotan questions what positive value or virtue such a gimmick would promote, and opines that it would just lead to more frivolity and sensuality. "Instead of such gimmick, let's all work to build a wholesome atmosphere of decency, sense of propriety and reverence for clean and chaste relationships," she opined. I agree. Metro Manila seems to have established a reputation as a porno capital, especially with the proliferation of smut publications that are becoming bolder and bolder (ask civic leader Tita Reverente who was shocked at discovering such super-bold stuff openly peddled in the university belt and elsewhere). It's also well known that child prostitution and trafficking abound in our midst, not to mention a sharp rise in teenage pregnancies. It's obvious that a world record for the longest group smooching will not help the country's image one bit; neither does it reinforce Filipino mores and values. Mr. Mayor, please reconsider.

* * *

But there's another cause involving married couples that ought to be encouraged and supported. "Retrouvaille" is French for "rediscovery," but it is also the name of a Catholic ministry that helps heal and renew stressed, troubled and hurting marriages. Many married couples with distressed relationships have been helped by this ministry to successfully put their troubled past behind and work to rediscover each other in a new and positive way. Retrouvaille is once again inviting couples with problems to another healing weekend scheduled from Feb. 13-15 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center at SVD Road, Barangay San Jose, near San Pablo Seminary, Tagaytay City. Columban priest Fr. David Clay is the spiritual director of Retrouvaille and he and three couples who had undergone the program will give the talks during this weekend in Tagaytay, to be followed up by six Saturday afternoon sessions in Metro Manila. For more information or registration, call Father Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511, or Tom and Ruby at 931-84-13 and 932-3750 or 0918-9232973, and Tessie at 0917-538-8970.

One ring to rule RP

YOUNG BLOOD

Noel Talaver

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

BY NOW everyone must have seen "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." Perhaps more than any other nation, ours is going through the same problems as Middle Earth, especially with the elections drawing near. Picture the ring, the source of power, as the seat of government. It is that power which political parties crave. For with that power comes wealth, and with wealth comes more power.

The ring of power has corrupted our society, much like the father of Aragorn was corrupted by the power of the one ring and endangered the lives of all the people in Middle Earth, losing the trust of the elves. Only trust, unity, selfless sacrifice and the desire to destroy the ring helped the people of Middle Earth turn the tide against their enemies.

Can our officials be like that? United under one banner, putting aside their selfish desires, their passions for glory, for the benefit of the Filipino people, to save us from the lust for power in politics? Or are they too involved with their own corrupted desires for fame, power and wealth? If they are, then we are caught in a never-ending battle for that one ring. Unless we decide to put aside our differences as a people and work for the benefit of all, not just for the poor, or the rich, or for our Muslim brothers, but for us all *as Filipinos*, and as one nation, that is, unless we unite for our country, we can never be free of the corruption that has infected our very hearts and has manipulated our desires, leading us to our own destruction.

After all, it was unity among the people of Middle Earth that frightened the dark lord, Sauron; it was the courage of *men* and not man, that defeated him. As a people we have that power. Power to stand up against corruption, against the corrupt leaders who plague our land. The only problem is that we have forgotten that power.

As the electoral battle draws near once more, let us remember our duties and responsibilities as Filipino citizens. Let us remember that we have the power to change the course of our country—by uniting and electing responsible and capable leaders who not only have the passion or the knowledge to serve, but leaders who have both of these attributes.

In the coming battle we have a choice. A choice to be like the Hobbits who stayed in the Shire, not caring nor knowing about the danger that threatened them all until it was too late to do something about it or we can choose to be like Frodo and his friends, who left the Shire and courageously accepted their responsibilities and duties so as to save not only the Shire, but all of Middle Earth. The choices we make, the leaders we elect, will not only affect us, but the entire country as well. It is time we took a stand and have the courage to exercise our right to vote and remind people who wish to be in government that true power does not lie in the position that they hold, but instead, in the people: for it was on this principle that our government is based. For the people, by the people and of the people.

At all costs, the one ring of power that has corrupted our leaders and blinded us all must be destroyed. If we want the Philippines to be a progressive and successful nation in the coming years, now is the time to unite under one banner and put aside petty differences and elect leaders who will really serve us and not leaders who are just after power, fame, wealth or position.

The trilogy of the Lord of the Rings is not only excellent entertainment which has won numerous awards and captivated the hearts and minds of the people. It also serves as a lesson as to what happens to peoples, leaders and nations that allow the lust of power to corrupt their hearts. A reminder as to what happens when people neglect their responsibilities and duties, and run away in fear. Or who have the courage to stand up and make a difference, despite the odds. Yes, it is a reminder of the consequences of our actions and decisions; and of what is, was and will be, depending on the choices we now make.

Noel Talaver, 22, is a BS Biology graduate of Velez College, Cebu City.

All about character

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BILL Clinton once appeared before a group of high school students, and one of them asked: "Briefs or boxers?" He had the choice of replying to the question or ignoring it completely. He chose to answer, although I—and perhaps most of those who watched the exchange on TV—have by now forgotten what mode of underwear Clinton prefers. (Let's ask Monica?)

What mattered more was that the question was asked, and that it got a reply. You can't get more private than that.

Similarly, when Jessica Soho, in the course of a hurried eight-minute one-on-one with Fernando Poe Jr., asked him if it was true he has a child with former actress Ana Marin, Poe faced a choice: admit this past indiscretion or brush off Jessica and say it was none of her business. He chose to reply in the affirmative, but refused to say anything more than that it was in the past (the boy is now 22) and that his relationship with the mother was long finished. And then he stood up and declared the interview over.

Maybe Clinton figured it was no big deal telling the world about a garment hardly anyone but he, his wife and any other significant other sees, anyway. The alternative would have defeated the purpose of his meeting with young folks: to show them he was "cool" and could communicate with them at their level. And if he refused to answer, he might as well have issued an invitation to the media to go digging into his laundry hamper.

Spin doctors in the Poe camp now say that Poe's "candor" proves his sincerity and that he has nothing to hide from the people. I don't think he had any choice. The affair with Marin and its result was, as ardent supporter Armida Siguion-Reyna admitted, an "open secret" in show-biz circles. If he had denied the existence of Ron-An, or told Jessica to buzz off, he would have appeared a cad or worse, unleashed media hounds intent on proving him a liar. Given how old the child is, it's certainly remarkable that his existence has remained secret, however open the secret may be among show-biz circles, for so long. Jessica's feat was simply in truth-telling, or rather, truth-unveiling. Ronnie Poe and his son should thank Jessica for finally clearing the air.

* * *

BUT I wouldn't let him off the hook so easily. And neither should voters.

I agree, private matters like extra-marital affairs or a love for the bottle don't usually have a bearing on performance in office or competence to hold office. That is, unless his many competing families begin dividing the fiscal pie among them, or he shows up at an official function drunk and disorderly.

But private and personal matters do have a bearing on character, and character is central to the person. Former President Erap famously begged the public to stop prying into his many families, declaring that the public had the right to scrutinize him "from the waist up," but that everything "from the waist down" was his own business. The trouble with this formula is that we don't vote *manananggals* into office, we vote for human beings whole and entire, warts and all, their political platforms along with their personal weaknesses.

Ideally, we should be basing our choices on competence and capability, on the candidates' stand on issues and what they propose to do to solve the problems of the country. But when a candidate is unable or unwilling to go beyond generalities or platitudes, or can only mutter "*pag-aaralan ko pa ang bagay na 'yan*" (I have to study the matter) when quizzed on current issues, then voters can only assess his character. And character is judged not by one's movie roles or mythic persona, but by one's behavior and values as gleaned from personal history. If character and "sincerity" are all you offer the electorate, then the public has the right to try to know as much as they can about you.

* * *

AS with Erap, Ronnie Poe's camp is now trying to put a positive spin on Ron-An and other alleged Poe progeny. At least, they say, the candidate never abandoned the boy, and in fact helped support him and paid for his education. And if Susan Roces has been able to forgive her husband, then who are we to stand in judgment?

Other groups have hailed Poe for his "transparency," though if he was so transparent, then why wasn't Ron-An listed in his biodata? If Jessica Soho hadn't come out and asked the question, Ron-An would have remained in the realm of speculation. He wasn't being transparent when he admitted fathering the boy. He was just wriggling his way out of a tight fix.

Even if commentators say infidelity is no longer a big issue, and that FPJ endeared himself even more to voters and only strengthened his standing among the unreconstructed machos in our society, let me put in a word for marital fidelity and the importance of keeping true to your vows.

It's still a valid question to ask: If a man cannot keep true to his marital vows, what guarantee do we have that he will be faithful to his oath of office?

What are we telling young people when we say that siring a child by a woman other than your wife is no problem, as long as you look after his upkeep and pay his tuition? Is money the only measure of responsible parenthood? Isn't the heartache you sow in your spouse, your abandoned mistress and your hidden offspring something you need to ponder, too?

The only good spin I can put on this story is that, having now realized the adverse consequences of unprotected sex and irresponsible sexual behavior, maybe FPJ will now realize the need to promote reproductive health and rights for all, including Da King.

About Bicol (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE RITES offered to the *Asuang* were performed regularly as expiation because of the pre-Hispanic Bicolano's belief that he was an evil spirit (and the prime reason behind all the harm and troubles that befell them). It was not strange, then, that the *Asuang* had to be placated, using all available means (including according to Retana, though I have not been able to verify it from another source, human sacrifice).

The *Hidhid* was a species of exorcism. When a public calamity such as locust infestation, pestilence or destructive typhoon befell a region, the *baliana* would then perform the *Hidhid* for deliverance, cursing the *Asuang* harshly, commanding it imperiously to leave.

If the *Hidhid* was performed over a sick person dominated by the spirit of the *Asuang*, the *baliana* would begin by placing a poultice made of macerated betel nut leaves on the head of the victim and then dance around the sick person, turning and gesticulating, entreating the *Asuang* to leave. If the victim got well they would attribute it to the efficacy of the prayers, but if he died, it was because the *Asuang* wanted to take him to the *Gagamban* to suffer the pains of the damned.

The *Hogot* was another sacrifice made to the spirit of evil. When a *dato* or important person died, they believed it was because of vengeance exacted by the *Asuang* who wanted to satisfy his voracious hunger with the entrails of the deceased. To prevent this, they would kill the slave dearest to the *dato* and offer his or her entrails to the *Asuang*, hoping the *dato* would be spared.

The cult of the *Anito* or the soul of an ancestor, was the most common of all the cults, and the one best adapted to their customs and beliefs. The *Anitos* were gods of the homestead; their statues were installed in small caves called *moog* or in the most public places frequented by the settlers, depending on the standing of the deceased and the wealth he left. There were different categories; they could be classified with the name *Tagno* if the *Anito* was a domestic god or with *Parangpan* if he was a guardian or benevolent public god.

When one of the *maguinoo* or rich persons died, they would perform the ceremony called *Pasaca*, consisting of embalming the cadaver by extracting the intestines with a sharp and slender stick (taking care that these entrails would be deposited in a well guarded place by slaves and dependents to prevent the *Asuang* from finding them unguarded and eating them). They would then wrap the body between two big pieces of the bark of odorless *daod* and in this manner, the body would be preserved for a long period of time. This was necessary so that the corpse could lie in state while the preparations were underway to conduct funeral obsequies with proper pomp and show. The funeral rites included an abundant banquet served to the whole tribe.

At the time Retana's account was written, the the Agtas from Asog still followed the custom of keeping the cadavers of their kinsmen and parents unburied for three or four months.

The *Basbas*, or washing of the cadaver, was the first rite observed in honor of the deceased. It was their belief that anyone who died left this world stained with the marks of their illnesses, and with the need to atone for their sins. It was therefore necessary that they cleanse themselves or else be subjected to suffering great torments at the hands of the *Asuang*. Cleaned and purified, the dead would avoid humiliating oppression and horrible captivity.

To clean the corpse, the *balianas* would make a poultice with leaves of the aromatic Lucban and, wetting it with water, they would begin to strike the air over the cadaver, sprinkling the corpse forcefully and singing the *cotumba* at the same time. This continued until, exhausted from their efforts, they would fall to the floor in a faint. It was believed that at this moment the corpse was purified and cleansed and the *Anito* freed from the cruel tyranny of the *Asuang*. It could now wander freely through the delicious open country or the dense thickets of the forests.

If some notable disgrace befell them (which happened frequently since they were always at war with each other), the first thing they did was to ask help from their most celebrated *Anito*, invoking him with great respect and veneration, bursting out with doleful ayes and shouts. To obtain the object of their supplications more quickly and efficiently, they would do the *Dool*, an act to abstain from certain foods as penance for the disgrace that tormented them.

If one had a beloved son who was sick, to rid him of the malediction of the *Asuang*, they would perform the *Yocod* , a sacred offering to their ancestors. They would carry the child in their arms, passing him rapidly from one part of the house to another with the intent of escaping from the *Asuang*. In this manner the boy would be freed and under the protection and guardianship of his ancestors.

(Data from W. E. Retana, Archivo del Bibliofilo Filipino, 1895.)

THEY SAID

Don't pin it on me

"His lifestyle is public knowledge and I don't need to contribute to what is publicly known."

—Former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez on Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez's accusation Golez is behind investigations being conducted on him

No soft sell

"I have a disconcerting habit of speaking the truth. A more normal person would try to either soft-pedal it, or at least use some euphemisms. But in my case, I believe that they do not serve any purpose."

—Senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago who believes show business people should not run for public office

Motherhood statement

"We should all work for the country, for Mother Philippines, and not for any one person."

—Former President Corazon Aquino, on not endorsing any presidential candidate

Grounded in heaven

"There is something more important than political stability, and it is that we are built on solid ground which is the Lord. There is something more important than justice, and it is love."

—Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas on the death penalty

No begging for faith

"The main attraction for many is seeing us as compassionate and kind people. We do not need to dance in the streets or announce the religion."

—Anthony Ching, head of the Buddhist Philanthropical Association

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Vulnerable nation

ERIK Arazas' photo of several urban poor children eating food handouts reflects the condition which the urban poor population has been reduced into, thanks but no thanks to too much politicking and too little time, if any, devoted to helping improve living conditions. It is due to too much politicking that the poor are reduced to the level of parasites, begging for money and food just to stay alive, rather than getting an education or even vocational training.

We have clearly seen how politicians play on the poor's predicament for political ends.

In a recent analysis, Amando Doronila noted that "the masses have learned that pro-poor slogans will not bring food to their tables or give them jobs." Then why are there still people who leap to high heavens when politicians offer food doles in exchange for votes, present or future?

Unless the government makes a conscious effort to make good on its promises to unite the government, stop the bickering once and for all, and work for the genuine betterment of the people, the discontent will eventually spill out into the open with the force of a breaking dam. The No-El scenario could come true. The Philippines could fall under the rule of a Khomeini or Pinochet, both of whom forcibly took advantage of the conditions in their countries to install oppressive extremist dictatorships that suppressed democracy and human rights.

Sadly, with more and more people sympathetic to the grievances of the Oakwood mutineers, and politicians refusing to listen, we all may have to brace ourselves for yet another Marcos... or something much worse.

—FRANCK SANTOS,
Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The Gospel excels position

BRO. Eddie Villanueva's decision to enter politics is a gargantuan blunder beyond proportions because his calling is to preach the good news of salvation to our countrymen.

Rev. 2:4-5 says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen and repent and do the fifst works or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

The flaw in Brother Eddie's program of Bangon na Bayan is its focus on economic prosperity rather than on the moral and spiritual recovery of our people, so that they may find salvation through the grace of Christ as Lord and Savior.

The basic cause for the plagues of our nation is sin and the great hold of the enemy Satan on the very fiber of our nation. Rev. 12:11 shows the only way to overcome Sin and Satan: "And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death."

It is not by competing in politics can we win the war against the enemy, but by overcoming the consequences of sin wrought by the enemy Satan.

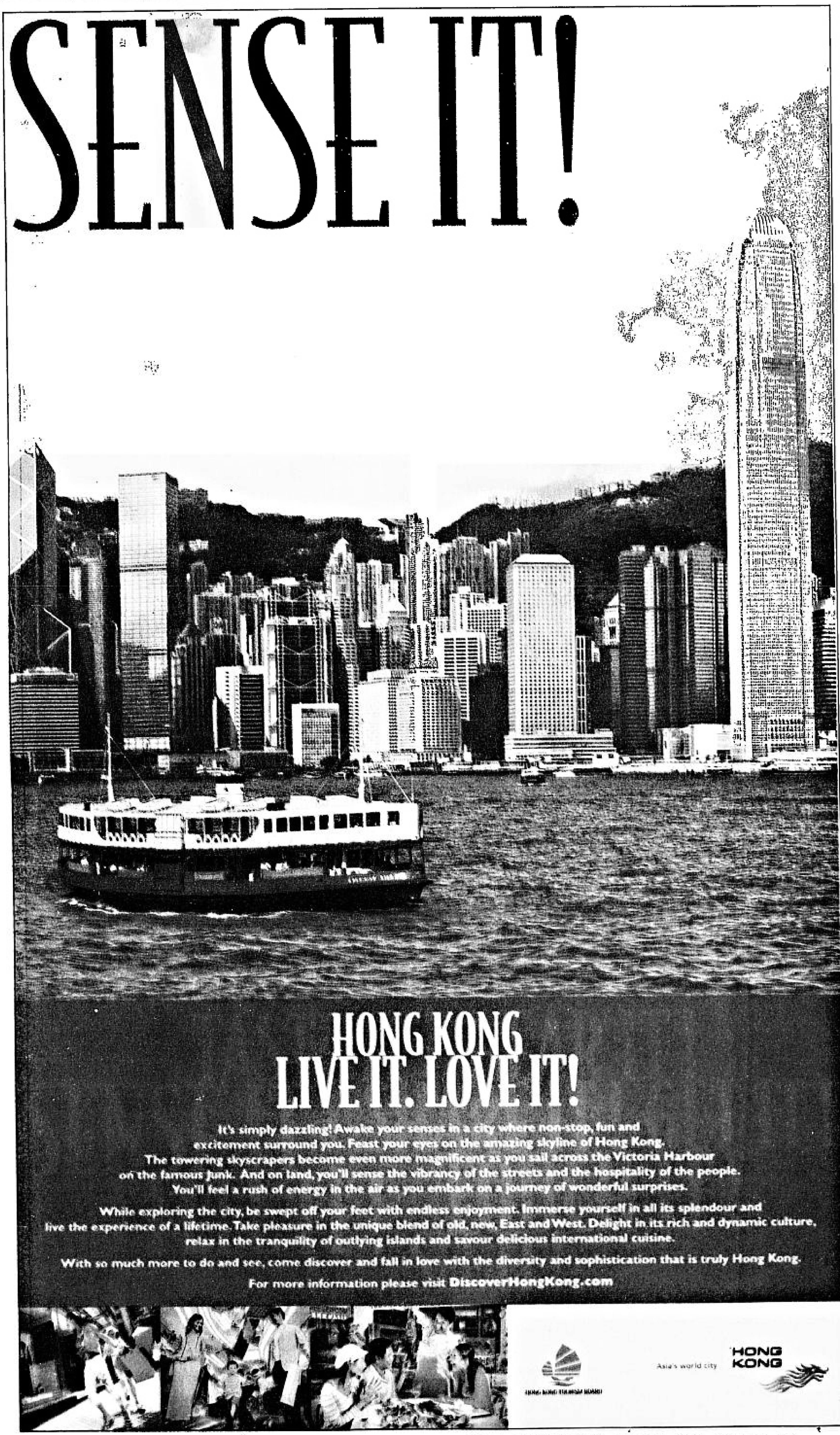
Poverty, confusion, crime, corruption and all the social evils and trials facing our country are part of the enemy's onslaught to thwart God's deliverance. But we can overcome these evils by the three elements mentioned. The blood of the Lamb is the blood of Christ shed in Calvary. Only those who accept the sacrifice of Christ in faith can be forgiven of their sins.

Then by sharing their testimony, repenting of their sins and turning over their lives to Christ, will our countrymen see the light of salvation

And third, by living their lives for Christ even to the point of sacrificing their lives unto death, and not for this present world of corruption, then and only then can the Christian overcome the enemy Satan who is causing all the plagues of our nation.

The word of God, not politics or a position in government, is the only assurance of deliverance for our nation. Taking the example of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, his focus was on saving the lost, not on delivering the Jews from the Roman yoke of oppression, as some of his apostles made the mistake of thinking. It is time for Brother Eddie to repent and go back to his first love. Let us focus on Christ's Gospel of salvation and not on the world of politics.

—CESAR S. UMALI,
chair, God Save the Philippines
Movement, 30 Scout Borromeo
St., South Triangle, Quezon City


SENSE IT!

HONG KONG
LIVE IT. LOVE IT!

It's simply dazzling! Awake your senses in a city where non-stop, fun and excitement surround you. Feast your eyes on the amazing skyline of Hong Kong. The towering skyscrapers become even more magnificent as you sail across the Victoria Harbour on the famous junk. And on land, you'll sense the vibrancy of the streets and the hospitality of the people. You'll feel a rush of energy in the air as you embark on a journey of wonderful surprises.

While exploring the city, be swept off your feet with endless enjoyment. Immerse yourself in all its splendour and live the experience of a lifetime. Take pleasure in the unique blend of old, new, East and West. Delight in its rich and dynamic culture, relax in the tranquility of outlying islands and savour delicious international cuisine.

With so much more to do and see, come discover and fall in love with the diversity and sophistication that is truly Hong Kong.

For more information please visit DiscoverHongKong.com

Asia's world city HONG KONG

Cory's chair

I READ with deep interest Raul Palabrica's column ("Negative reaction to column items") in the INQUIRER's Feb. 2 issue, where he stated, among others:

"The complaints I receive about columnists are usually based on the following reasons: the information cited is not true or certain significant facts were omitted...

"It's no different from good deeds being left unnoticed, while evil acts get wide publicity.

"The question often asked of me by readers and news sources is: 'What should I do if I feel I was unfairly written about by a columnist?'"

I wonder whether it was provoked by my letter to columnist Conrado de Qurios, copy furnished Palabrica, dated Jan. 27, in reaction to De Quiros' column ("They're right" in the INQUIRER's Jan. 26 issue), which implied that I was the Comelec chair during the scandalous IBP elections in 1978, which, to say the least, I consider derogatory, and which I quote again as follows:

"But the elections are already banged up with the reputation of the Comelec having fallen to an all-time low—even lower I would think than the Comelec during Ramon Felipe's time, which was the time of Ferdinand Marcos. At least, then, elections were expected to be a farce, and therefore, the Comelec was, too. If the results in the voting were foregone—Ninoy Aquino finished behind the most obscure KBL candidate in 1978—who cared about counting?"

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, a former colleague in our fight against the martial law dictatorship, solicitously faxed to me a copy of his letter to De Quiros, informing him that I was Comelec chair under Cory Aquino and that he confused me with the one who did not know how to count in 1978.

As I explained to De Quiros, I was appointed Comelec commissioner only on March 21, 1984 and in the ensuing regular Batasang Pambansa election on May 14, 1984, 55 then opposition candidates won cleanly, some of whom were my former colleagues in the sixth (1965-69) and seventh (1969-72) Congresses, namely Ramon Mitra Jr., Neptali Gonzales, Eva Estrada-Kalaw, Jose B. Laurel Jr., Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Aquilino Pimentel, Ciriaco Alfelor, Roland Andaya, Edmundo Cea, Victor Ziga, Luis Villafuerte, etc.

In 1978, when even Ninoy Aquino, Mitra and Gonzales lost to unknown KBL candidates, I was not yet even a Comelec commissioner. I am, therefore, puzzled where De Quiros got that wrong information, or why he even made that uncalled for blunder, since I do not even know him personally. Unfortunately, granting that it was an honest mistake, up to the present he has not corrected or apologized for it. I refuse to believe that De Quiros is one of those columnists, as Palabrica puts it, "who, for one reason or another, one of which is misplaced pride, are averse to the idea of admitting in writing their lapses in accuracy and objectivity. They think (which I do not agree with) the erratum would adversely affect their credibility."

—RAMON H. FELIPE JR.,
former chair,
Commission on Elections (1984-88),
rhfelipe@pacific.net.ph

Seminars needed

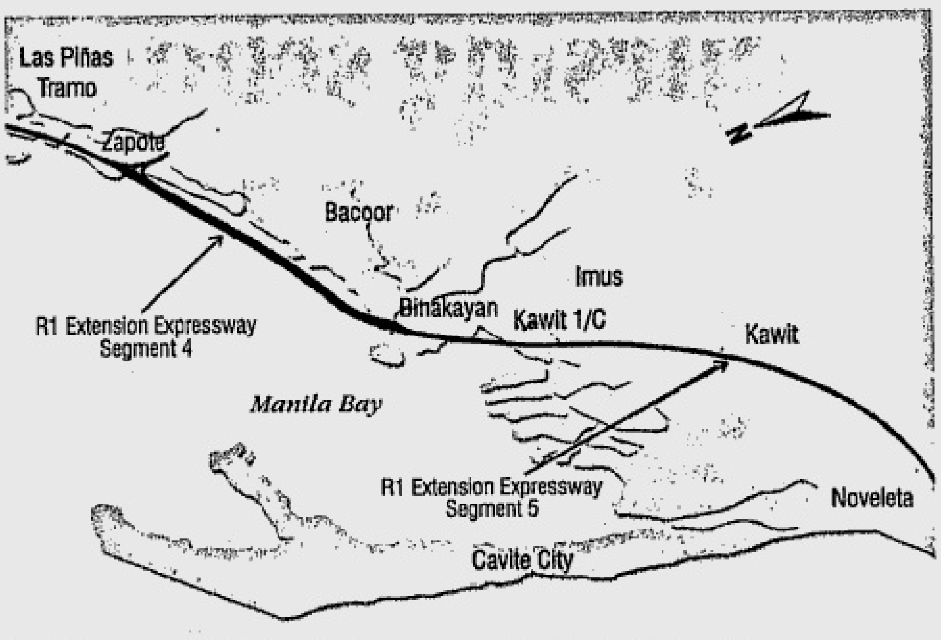
YOUR report on the two million battered Pinays and the commentary on the Genosa case (PDI, 1/24, 25/04) compel me to share with your readers a few thoughts. Back in mid-2002, noting the reluctance of doctors to testify in domestic violence cases, the Zuellig Foundation organized a forum to identify ways for them to be more involved.

It was intimated that in many cases the doctor attending to a battered partner would rather downplay the cause of the injury in medico-legal reports. The victims, on the other hand, sometimes believe that physical and emotional violence is a normal thing in a relationship and even justify it. A few expressed the view that curbing physical domestic violence might curb unplanned and unwanted pregnancy.

While the forum did not achieve fully the intended objective (getting more doctors to be aware of their duty toward attaining justice), it did provide some new ideas that society might consider undertaking. It was proposed that domestic violence seminars be made a requisite in obtaining a marriage license. This way, the spouses will know what rights they have and the avenues for redress in case of abuse by one partner; and the abuser will know that one cannot get away with domestic violence.

—KENNETH HARTIGAN-GO, M.D.,
executive director,
The Zuellig Foundation, Makati City

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



ARTIST'S rendering of the route that the extended coastal road would take.
ILLUSTRATION BY ERNIE SAMBO

GMA pursues promise of 16 yrs through coastal road extension

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will lead groundbreaking rites today for the long-awaited construction of the Manila-Cavite coastal road extension project, re-affirming a commitment she made 16 years ago to transform Cavite into a highly-industrialized province.

The groundbreaking ceremonies start at 10 a.m. In a statement, Malacañang said it will be a sentimental occasion for Ms Macapagal, who, as an assistant trade secretary in 1988, envisioned the implementation of the Cavite Trade and Industry Plan (CTIP).

The Cavite coastal road extension project will stretch the existing highway from Pasay to Zapote to Kawit and on to Noveleta, Cavite.

"This is one project we Caviteños cannot forget President Arroyo for. Aside from the dramatic cut in travel time from Manila to Noveleta and vice versa, the extension project will also entice investors to locate themselves at the export processing zone in Rosario, Cavite that is guaranteed to generate thousands of job opportunities," said Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya.

As assistant trade secretary, Ms Macapagal had proposed the CTIP which then was noted as undoable because of the province's notoriety as a "warlord area."

When Ms Macapagal embarked on the ambitious project in 1988, only three companies responded favorably and put up offices at the administration building of the Rosario export processing zone.

But Ms Macapagal refused to let go of the project.

The 11.3-kilometer, $117-million extension project is one of the priority projects of her administration and is expected to be finished in 24 months.

The funding requirement was secured during Ms Macapagal's state visit to the United States in May last year through the International Finance Corp. which agreed to finance $70 million of the total project cost.

The balance was provided by UEM-MARA Philippines Corp. (UMPC) and a consortium of foreign investors.

UMPC and Coastal Road Corp. will undertake the project in a joint venture with the Public Estates Authority under the build-operate-transfer scheme.

Sugar crisis looms; hunger stalks farmers

By Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*
And Delfin Mallari Jr., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SUGAR producers in Negros Occidental warned of chaos in sugar producing areas, which support thousands of farmers and workers, amid the alarming drop in mill gate prices of sugar.

Sugar leaders yesterday said the industry is in a serious crisis with prices dropping from P638 per 50-kilo bag on Thursday from P660 per bag last week, way below the production cost of P700 per bag.

Enrique Rojas, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, and Manuel Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines, said a sugar crisis could again spawn famine in Negros, which has a monocrop economy, and trigger a resurgence of the rebellion that hit the province during martial law.

In Batangas, sugar cane farmers have urged the government to provide immediate assistance to thousands of families who will go hungry with a looming sugar crisis.

"The threat of an impending calamity would replicate the seasonal 'tiempos muertes' in Negros island where thousands were forced to hunger and neglect by government and hacienderos," said Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas national president, in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

Glenn Ymata, Alyansa ng mga Magsasaka sa Batangas (AMB) coordinator, described the farmers' situation in Batangas as "full of uncertainties."

"The only thing definite is that thousands will go hungry if the government would not exert effort to avert the situation," he said over the phone.

Many sugar producers blamed the low price of commodity on unabated sugar smuggling.

"The situation is really bad; not enough measures are being taken to stop sugar smuggling," Lamata said.

Rojas said even smuggled Australian sugar is now entering the Philippines. "Before, it was just Thai sugar," he said.

Lamata called on the government to raise tariff on colored sugar to stop smuggling.

Imported premix concentrates, which are used in fruit juices by the food industry and processors, "are for all intents and purposes liquid sugar," said Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon.

The entry of premix concentrates displaced 120,000 to 150,000 metric tons of domestic sugar, he said.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator (SRA) James Ledesma, however, said he believed that the prices of sugar had already hit bottom. "We should see better prices next week," he said.

Ledesma found it more distressing that while the mill gate prices of sugar were dropping, the retail prices remained the same.

He, however, also admitted that with the low price of sugar, sugar production this year is expected to drop as many sugar farmers refused to harvest their mature canes because of the prevailing low price.

About 300 members of the sugar farmers group from Nasugbu, Tuy, Balayan, Lian, Calatagan, Calaca, Taal and Lemery towns have been camping out since Tuesday in front of the SRA office in Quezon City, Ymata said.

The protest action was brought about by the closure of Balayan Sugar Central Inc. (BSCI) in Batangas.

Fortaleza said the Mill District Development Committee (on behalf of the SRA), Gov. Hermilando Mandanas and city mayors promised P14 million to help the sugar cane farmers, majority of whom rely heavily on the BSCI.

"Talks, however, failed and the impasse between the sugar cane unions and management resulted in a deadlock," Ymata said.

Pampanga farmers warn of moves vs dam if gov't refuses to pay

ARAYAT, Pampanga—Farmers still unpaid of their right-of-way claims have threatened to destroy dikes and block the flow of water to more than 11,000 hectares of mostly rice land served here by the Cong Dadong Dam, a Japanese-funded irrigation facility named after President Macapagal-Arroyo's late father.

"They warned they would paralyze the operations (of the dam) and also resist paying (irrigation) service fees," Ernesto Bielza, head of the National Irrigation Administration's maintenance unit here, told the INQUIRER on Friday.

But while those drastic actions have yet to be taken, several farmers have already exerted pressure by refusing to give right of way to additional dikes.

This is the reason the dam has been irrigating only 2,000 hectares since December although the water level there remains at a maximum of 8.5 meters, according to Antonio Garcia, assistant manager of the NIA's Pampanga Delta Development Project.

The threats started coming six months ago and became more frequent in recent weeks as 816 farmers (not more than 200 as earlier reported) pressed for the immediate payment of P69.3 million as claims for lands occupied by the dam and its network of canals in six western Pampanga towns, Bielza said.

"They have started losing faith in the NIA," he said, pointing out that farmers went home always empty handed amid repeated assurances of payment by the agency's Pampanga Delta Development Project team.

"They are angrier this time because the dam is almost complete (99.71 percent last December) and yet they have not been compensated," Garcia said.

Barangay Lacquios, Arayat Councilman Orlando Calabug confirmed the threats, saying these were coming from displaced farmers in Arayat, Candaba, Sta. Ana, San Luis, Mexico, San Simon and Apalit.

He said his father-in-law had died full of regrets and mired in debt after the dam occupied his two-hectare land in Barangay Blanco.

While seeking P383,000 for the land compensation since 2002, Calabug said his father-in-law also sold his farm tractor to settle his debts.

"*Hindi malayong sisirain talaga nila ang mga* dike (It's not remote they would destroy the dikes)," he told the INQUIRER.

Neither Calabug nor the PDDP officials could tell how many farmers were planning drastic measures to prod government to pay up.

Efren Maliwat, president of the Pampanga Irrigators Federation, said the farmers have been seeking the help of the New People's Army and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan. The two communist armed groups have not launched any attacks yet on the dam.

Garcia expressed worry for the safety of PDDP personnel operating the dam on a 24-hour schedule.

The NIA also owes P6.2 million in delayed salaries, benefits and separation payments to at least 67 PDDP employees. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bets asked to take stand vs globalization

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Vegetable farmers of Benguet and Mt. Province want all presidential candidates to lay down their political cards on globalization.

They said candidates with solutions to problems faced by the vegetable industry would get their votes.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said on Tuesday that the farmers are turning to a "political solution" to the unexplained wave of salad vegetable importation in the last few months that continue to dislocate highland vegetables sold in Metro Manila markets.

The farmers, Molintas said, have been blaming globalization for their predicament. They attributed this to President Macapagal-Arroyo because of her sponsorship of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's (GATT) ratification when she was still senator.

Ms Macapagal is also being taken to task for the actions of a former official of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), who was blamed for the importation of salad vegetables from China, Australia and Europe.

Blo Umpar Adiong, former BPI director, is facing charges from local farmers who believe that he allowed importers to sneak in imported vegetables despite a moratorium imposed by Ms Macapagal. Adiong denied these charges.

Molintas said the farmers petitioned Ms Macapagal for Adiong's relief, but the official was always reinstated later.

"That is probably the reason I should not support (Ms Macapagal)," Molintas said.

But farmers' groups here are open to all political solutions, even from Ms Macapagal.

"We believe that there are good reforms being conducted (in agriculture) by the administration and we recognize them. (The President) promised to build us a cold chain and she did. But we also know that we need more (subsidy) from the government and globalization does not allow it," a leader of a farmers' group here said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

IT'S NOT YOUR HAIR.
IT'S NOT YOUR INCOME.
IT'S NOT YOUR MUSIC.

IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT
TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

ARCTURA
KINETIC
Auto Relay

POWERED BY THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY.
OFF THE WRIST, IT ENTERS A SLEEP STATE UP TO FOUR YEARS.
BACK ON THE WRIST, IT RESETS ITSELF TO EXACT TIME.

SEIKO
www.seikowatches.com

Always ask for a warranty card

FREE CHECK-UP

THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS
• **MANILA** : Niclur Bldg. Cor. Taft & Quirino Ave., Manila Tel.(632) 523-8676 • **MAKATI** : Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, across Bank of P. I. Park Square 1 Tel.(632) 892-8302 • **LAS PIÑAS** : G/F SM Southmall Supermarket Level, Las Piñas Tel. (632) 806-6553 • **BICUTAN** : Upper Grd. Fl., inside SM Hypermarket, SM Bicutan, Parañaque Tel. (632) 822-9108 • **PHILAM-CUBAO** : Unit 6, G/F Philam Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Q. C. Tel.(632) 911-1619 • **SM NORTH EDSA** 2/F SM City Main Bldg., North Edsa,Q.C. Tel. (632) 929-3097 • **NEW FARMER'S PLAZA** : Lower Grd. Fl., Food Court Level, New Farmer's Plaza, Cubao Tel. (632) 913-1908 • **BACOOR** : G/F SM City Bacoor, Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Bacoor, Cavite Tel.(046) 970-4976 • **COLONADE CEBU** : G/F Unit 18 Colonade Mall, Colon St., Cebu City Tel.(032) 253-6936 • **SM CITY CEBU** Lower Grd. Flr., SM City-Cebu, North Reclamation, Cebu City Tel (032) 232-0782 • **DAVAO** : Door 4, Rafael Suarez Bldg., C.M.Recto St. Davao City (082) 227-6604

Reversible bracelet model-
a creative design in the spirit of today's fashion

ALBA
YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS

Available at any SEIKO Service Center and authorized Dealers nationwide

To reverse or not to reverse...

From SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Self-made doc sets up free nursing school

By Vicente S. Labro
Tabontabon, Leyte

FROM rags to riches and patron of poor Leyteño students.

This sums up, so far, the life of Dr. Rustico "Rusty" Balderian, who left his hometown in the early 1970s with just a few pesos in his pocket and returned home a professional and a successful businessman.

Balderian wanted to share his blessings with the less fortunate. But instead of giving dole-outs, he opted to provide free education to poor but deserving students in a school he established in his hometown, a fifth-class remote municipality of Leyte.

This 48-year-old doctor of medicine, it seems, wants poor Leyteños to follow his footsteps in his way to success—hard work, perseverance, patience and a relentless desire to obtain good education.

Balderian left home in 1971 to study in Manila and completed medical school as a working student. He now owns a medical laboratory, a pharmacy and a mobile X-ray company in the United States and a hospital and a medical diagnostic center in the country.

Last year, he opened a school of nursing in his hometown Tabontabon, some 30 km from Tacloban City.

The school, called Colegio de Sta. Lourdes of Leyte Foundation, Inc., lies on a 9,900-square meter lot that was formerly planted with rice and coconut. It opened last year, offering a 4-year nursing course, a one-and-a-half-year medical transcription course and a 2-year computer course. The school boasts of modern facilities like computers and a dummy with artificial pulse and heart beats that nursing students could use in their studies. The computers also have Internet connection through a satellite dish that Balderian set up. There is no commercial telephone line in Tabontabon.

COCONUT trees surround the newly constructed administration building of the Colegio de Sta. Lourdes of Leyte Foundation, Inc. in Tabontabon, Leyte. A rice field and coconut trees used to occupy the school site. Dr. Rustico "Rusty" Balderian (inset). VEN LABRO

Scholars all

But what is unique about this school aside from its location is that its students are all scholars. This means they do not pay their tuition, school supplies and the use of the school dormitory. However, they will have to pay for the food they would eat at the spacious school canteen.

The scholars were chosen based on the results of a rigid selection process, which included interviews and written tests. Past school records and family income were also considered.

Daisy Ann Arpon, 18, and a resident of Barangay Hinugayan, Barugo, Leyte, said it was her dream to become a nurse since she was yet a child. The second child of the five children of a motorcycle driver and a homemaker, Daisy knew her parents could not afford to send her to a school of nursing and she was thankful that she could now pursue her dream.

Hyacinth Artoza, 19, a farmer's daughter and a native of Jaro, Leyte, said the scholarship program was a big opportunity for her and her family. Also, her parents and siblings could visit her anytime they wanted to, unlike if she studied in a far away place.

Balderian said he put up the school because he wanted to help his fellow Leyteños. And he vowed to help the graduates of his nursing school in finding jobs in the United States if they wanted to work abroad.

He explained that he was doing this because he has sent to college 15 of his nephews and nieces but some of them were unable to find jobs in the country despite their being graduates.

He recalled that when he was a young man, he had to sacrifice because he really wanted to be a college graduate.

Born to a Filipina mother and a Chinese father, Balderian was the fourth in a brood of six. After he finished his high school in 1971 at the now defunct Divine Word University in Tacloban City, the young Balderian told his father that he wanted to have a college education in Manila. But his father, who owned a small *sari-sari* (variety) store in Tabontabon that could barely support his big family, told him that he could not afford to send him to Manila, much less support his studies in the big city.

Balderian's father asked his son to study in Tacloban City instead.

Manila or nothing

But for the young Balderian it was Manila or nothing. And off he went to the big city. When he arrived, he went to Barangay Marulas, Valenzuela, Bulacan and lived in a warehouse of a Chinese trader whose wife was from Tanauan, Leyte.

He immediately found work in a nearby shoelace and garter factory. He was 15-and-half years old then and his work was from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Despite his odd working hours, he managed to enroll at the Manila Central University, taking up the general course. He later shifted to optometry. His first big problem in his studies was when he lost his job at the factory. The factory owner did not hire him anymore because the Child Labor Law was being strictly implemented then, and the Chinese owner did not want to take any chances because it was Martial law that time.

So, Balderian had to find other means of livelihood. In between classes, he sold cigarettes and *balut*(unhatched egg) in the streets and at the sidewalk near MCU. There were times when he had no food to eat that he has to share a few tablespoon of food from each of his four classmates who were his close friends.

"After three weeks or one month, the wife of the factory owner took pity on me that (the husband) hired me, but my name no longer appeared in the payroll," he recalled.

Later on, Balderian was hired as a live-in driver by a ranking school official who knew that he was a working student. He was paid P8 a day.

When he finished his optometry course, he opened a small clinic at the market site near MCU and hired a secretary to attend to his business. He attended to his patients during his free time because by then, he was already taking up medicine.

In the early 1980s, Balderian finally achieved his dream of having a good education. He completed his Doctor of Optometry in 1975 from the MCU, his Doctor of Medicine in 1981 also from MCU, and his post-graduate internship in 1982 from the Pauline J. Garcia Memorial Medical Center in Cabanatuan City.

Driver in the US

It was during his clerkship (fourth year in medicine proper) when Balderian decided to engage in business other than his profession. In 1977, he enlisted himself as a contract grower of Vitarich, starting with just 100 chicks. He set up his operation in a town in Nueva Ecija. Except at one time when a typhoon wiped out all his 2-week-old chicks, Balderian's business flourished. He kept on increasing the number of his chicks. By February 1983, he said, his poultry already had a population of 26,000 heads of chicken.

Balderian said that because of the nature of his business, his colleagues started to call him "Doctor Manok."

In 1983, Balderian decided to try his luck in the United States. He only had $20 in his pocket when the plane landed in Los Angeles on April 29, 1983. Staying temporarily in the house of a brother of one of his friends in Manila, he immediately looked for a job. Luckily, a store owner hired him as truck driver for $3.50 an hour.

As truck driver, he had to wake up at 3 a.m. and drive his boss to the central market where they would buy fruits, vegetables and other items. Having to get up early, he chose to sleep at the cab of his truck, thus saving house rental money. After a couple of months, his boss asked him to also work as cashier at $3.50 per hour. Then he became the store manager, earning $6 an hour.

In January 1984, he resigned from his job because he wanted to have a business of his own. Out of his $1,000 savings, he bought a used car and used equipment and had a crash course on gardening from a Japanese immigrant.

He recalled that at that time he didn't even know how to operate a lawnmower, and there he was starting a business of providing gardening and landscaping services.

Then he printed some 2,000 flyers describing gardening and landscaping services and distributed these to people in the streets. One week had passed and no one called for his services. Panic was already taking over because he no longer had much money. Out of the $100 left, he spent $38 for an advertisement placement in a local newspaper.

"In that ad I mentioned that I am a gardener who speaks English, a person who is careful, cheerful and clean, and that my services was cheap too," he recalled.

After the ad placement, Balderian said many would-be clients called, and since then his business flourished. At first he did the job all by himself. He would mow the lawn, trim some shrubs, water the plants and weed the garden, among others. As his business started to grow, he bought five more vans and hired workers. By then he already had five 3-man teams servicing not only the neighborhood but other areas as well.

Success at last

With his five vans, he also accepted services of dumping old furniture and other stuff, with his price ranging from $80 to $300 dollars. What was good about this business, he recalled, was that they would repair and repaint some of the things that were about to be thrown away like a couch or ping-pong table, and then resell these at a good price.

Though busy in his new business, Balderian still managed to work as physician assistant in a medical clinic in Los Angeles. In 1985, he finally opened his own medical laboratory. In December that same year, he got married to a US citizen who hails from Zambales.

With his medical technologist wife, he opened in 1993 a pharmacy and in 1996 a mobile X-ray company. In the year 2000, he opened the Ryan Imaging Center in Los Angeles, which mainly deals with X-ray and CT scan services.

In 1990, he started coming home at least once a year to the Philippines. He also started setting up businesses in the country like the medical diagnostic center in Tacloban City in 1990, and the Ryan Anthony Hospital (named after the couple's son) in Cainta, Rizal in 1995.

His friends, however, are expecting that Balderian will visit the country more often, especially now that his pet project—the school of nursing—has just taken off the ground.

Lakas' confusing 'free zones' in Cebu, Iloilo

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

THE YOUNG men were marinating in their anger as the late Judge Martin Ocampo conducted their trial in a strict, business-like fashion, ignoring the tactics and histrionics of highly paid defense lawyers.

Day in and day out, in the whole course of the so-called "Trial of the Century," Judge Ocampo looked like an immovable rock, untouched and unaffected by the passions and emotions that colored the sensational kidnap, rape and murder case.

But when judgment came, Ocampo turned out to have more sympathy than what the accused could bargain for. The judge refused to hand down the ultimate penalty despite the damning testimony of the star witness who bared most of what had taken place on a night of drugs, perversion, orgy and death.

Judge Ocampo, who was found dead in a Mactan hotel in 1999 under mysterious and bizarre circumstances, would have been pleased that the Supreme Court had sustained his findings.

Reviewing the case, the high tribunal affirmed the guilt of Francisco Juan Larranaga, Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, brothers James Anthony and James Andrew Uy, Ariel Balansag and Alberto Cano.

But the SC justices went one step farther, sending the men—except for James Anthony who was a minor when the gruesome crime was committed in July 1997—to death row. All the 12 justices who took part in the review voted unanimously.

Ocampo, an anti-death penalty advocate, had sentenced the accused to two life sentences to underscore the gravity of their offense against sisters Jacqueline and Marijoy Chiong and society. It wasn't enough.

* * *

FREE ZONES. Let's try to get this straight.

Vice Gov. John Gregory "Johnjohn" Osmeña is the official candidate for Cebu governor of the Lakas-Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), but he can't count on the full support of the ruling party.

Gwendolyn Garcia, Gov. Pablo Garcia's daughter, is the official Lakas candidate, but she's not the handpicked champion of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Vice Gov. Osmeña reportedly is.

Celestino "Junie" Martinez Jr., the third gubernatorial wannabe, doesn't have the backing of neither the Lakas-NPC coalition nor the Lakas leadership, but it doesn't mean he's been left out in the cold.

Martinez will reportedly get as much, if not more, from Malacañang's financial pipelines to local candidates, his aides loudly boast.

At times, Cebu politics can be complicated and confounding, but this one has been simplified. Local candidates are free to mix it up and bash each other as long as they commit to help the lackluster presidential campaign take off. They won't have to worry about campaign money, only about killing each other.

In Iloilo City, Rep. Oscar Garin, the official Lakas candidate for governor, thought he had gained the inside track in the race to the Capitol with the exclusive Palace support in the bag.

To his surprise, Gov. Niel Tupas was declared the official candidate of the newly formed coalition between Lakas and LP-Ugyon, the regional political party founded by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

Rep. Arthur Defensor, Iloilo Lakas chair, said President Macapagal decided to support both Garin and Tupas, "because the two officials had helped her in the past." Like Cebu, Iloilo has become a free zone.

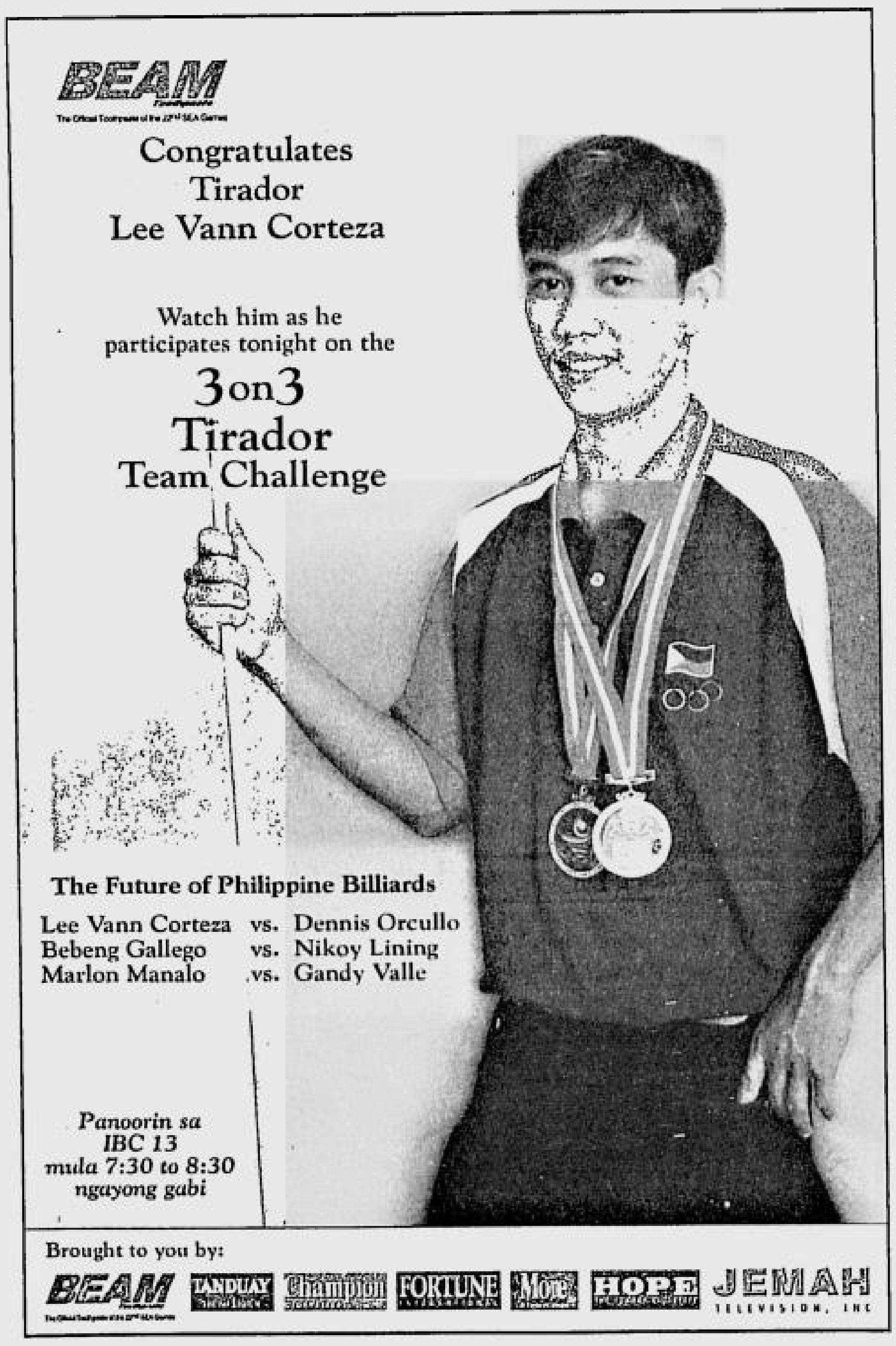
What is clear is that the ruling party is prepared to bankroll multiple candidates for the same local position—a strategy aimed at offsetting the immense popularity of movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. and keeps the President in contention.

This means that Lakas officials will have to dig deeper into their pockets and spend two or three times more than the other parties that need to pick only one candidate to spearhead their local campaign.

The question is where the administration party will get all the money?

In past elections, drug and *jueteng* money and proceeds of criminal activities like kidnapping for ransom and bank heists were used to buy votes, fuel PR campaigns and crank up well-oiled political machines.

In Cebu, we can only wonder where the government's goldmine for the May polls is.



BEAM
The Official Toothpaste of the 22nd SEA Games

Congratulates
Tirador
Lee Vann Corteza

Watch him as he
participates tonight on the
3on3
Tirador
Team Challenge

The Future of Philippine Billiards

Lee Vann Corteza vs. Dennis Orcullo
Bebeng Gallego vs. Nikoy Lining
Marlon Manalo vs. Gandy Valle

Panoorin sa
IBC 13
mula 7:30 to 8:30
ngayong gabi

Brought to you by:
BEAM TANDUAY Champion FORTUNE More HOPE JEMAH TELEVISION, INC

FOUR DIGIT
2 5 9 1
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
9 3 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 5 10 15 19 28

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Dads try to dig Pasay out of dump

By Joyce Abaño

PASAY councilors held an emergency session yesterday in a bid to resolve an impasse that has led to a worsening garbage crisis in the city.

The session, which was constantly interrupted by bickering and the councilors going into recess, lasted well into the night without any clear indication of a resolution to the problem.

The city's four contractors stopped collecting garbage from Pasay's 201 barangays on Wednesday saying they could not continue with their services without a contract.

The city mayor, Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, said he had been seeking authority from the city legislators to sign a new multimillion-peso contract since December 2003 but they had refused to give it to him.

Eight of the city councilors: Edgardo Advincula, Greg Paolo Alcera, Jonathan Cabrera, Reynaldo Mateo, Reynaldo Padua, Allan Panaligan, Marlon Pesebre and Arvin Tolentino, have refused to give Trinidad the authority saying the mayor had held a bidding even before the budget could be approved.

But according to councilor Arnel Arceo, the bidding was not illegal. He quoted the city auditor saying the bidding was merely a process leading to a contract.

In a bid to prevent a garbage crisis, Mateo said they had written the mayor authorizing him to extend the contract from 60 to 90 days.

But Councilor Emi Calixto-Robiano claimed that the contractors would never agree to an extension.

"You renew a contract, not extend it," she said.

During the deliberations, Padua suggested that they look into the budget being requested by Trinidad for garbage collection.

He noted that the amount was bigger than the estimate of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jaica) that has conducted a study on the garbage situation in Pasay.

The Jaica study said P76.6 million was needed to clear Pasay of garbage for one year. However, the four contractors are asking for P232.3 million.

But Trinidad stressed that Jaica's survey did not count the amount of refuse that the city's public and private markets generate everyday.

Offering his solution, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto told the councilors to either approve the proposed contract price or nullify it and hold another bidding.

Meanwhile, mounds of garbage continue to rise all over the city.

METROBRIEFS

Poetic justice

MICHAEL Manuzan on Thursday allegedly robbed Angelina Cumpas, 50, in Manila. The victim reportedly tried to escape from the suspected robber. But when she jumped off a passenger jeepney, she was hit and killed by another jeepney. Hours after the robbery, Manuzan, 19, was arrested. Yesterday, as Manuzan was leading the police to the house of his cohort on Algeciras Street in Manila, the suspect managed to escape from his escorts. But as he ran across España Street at around 2 p.m., Manuzan was hit and killed by a speeding van, according to Supt. Manolo Martinez. The driver of the van (UFK-641) did not stop, and sped off toward the Mabuhay Rotunda, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

Runaway pet and a train

APOLINARIO Malaras' puppy yesterday gave his master the slip and ran towards the railroad tracks in Makati City. When he chased after his pet, Malaras, 42, was hit and killed by a train. Malaras, a Metro Aide and resident of Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati, failed to notice the oncoming commuter train when he tried to retrieve his puppy at around 8:30 p.m., police said. *Margaux Ortiz*

Ex-cops did it

POLICE officials believe that ex-policemen took part in the robbery of a car dealership branch in Quezon City on Wednesday. Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro of the Central Police District yesterday said some of the men who took part in the daring heist at the Ford Philippines branch on Edsa Balintawak have already been identified. Castro declined to reveal the suspects' identities, explaining that he does not want to jeopardize ongoing police operations. During the robbery, the culprits drove off in a fully-loaded Expedition and a silver Everest. *Tina Santos*

Culprits on cam

SMILE, you're on a surveillance camera. Police are now trying to identify four robbers who were caught on surveillance camera while robbing the Caltex gasoline station and convenience store on President Quirino Avenue in Pandacan, Manila yesterday morning. Four suspects on board a black Mitsubishi Lancer (WGS-881) robbed the station and store at 12:50 a.m., and left with a total of P18,000 in cash and prepaid cell phone cards. *Leila Salaverria*

2 robbers elude PNP checkpoints

By Luige del Puerto

POLICE chokepoints proved useless yesterday after two men pulled off a robbery on a bank in Pasig City.

The robbers took some P70,000 cash from the Bank of San Mateo, a rural bank on Ortigas Avenue, Barangay Sta. Lucia, and from several of its clients.

The bank was some 50 meters from a police outpost at the foot of the Ortigas bridge and about 1 kilometer from a chokepoint of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force at the Ever Gotesco Mall.

Investigation showed that the suspects, one of whom was armed with a .45-caliber pistol, barged into the bank at 11:10 a.m. and fled three minutes later.

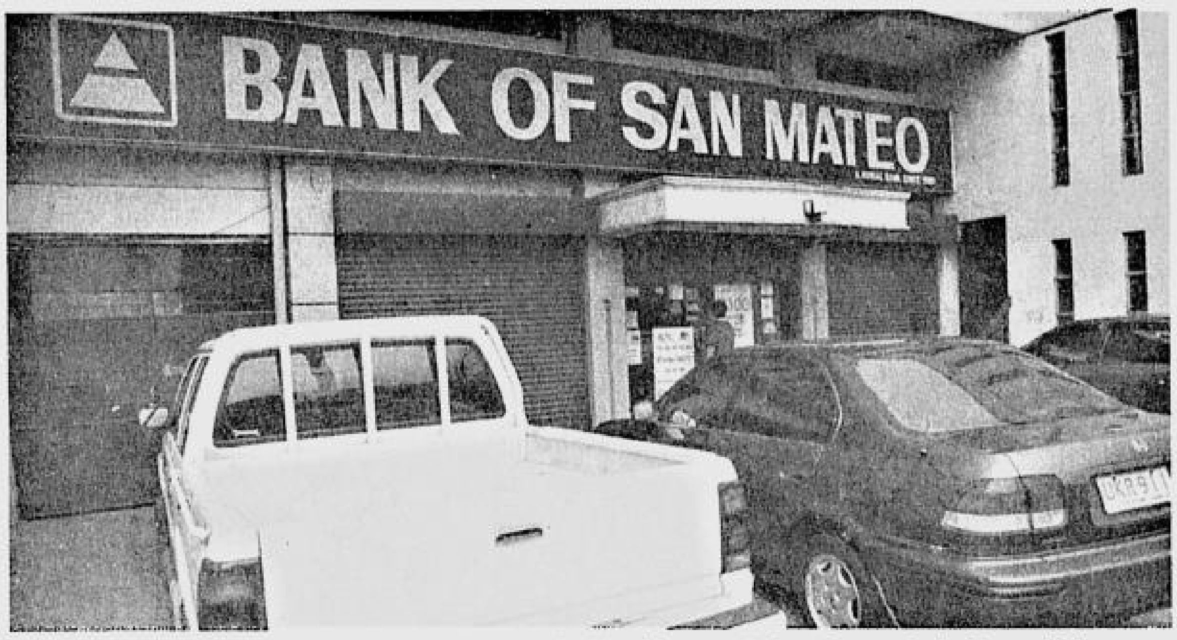
Small-time criminals

After disarming lone guard Danilo Balane Jr., the duo reportedly took P40,000 from bank tellers, P12,000 from bank employee Archie Ambrosio and P15,000 from client Danilo Corpuz.

Insp. Jovita Iquin, the city's chief for police investigation, said the robbers failed to open the bank's vault because of a time-delay clock.

They escaped on board a motorcycle.

City police chief Ernesto Catungal downplayed the incident, saying it was pulled off by small-time criminals, who only had one gun and not even a getaway car.



TWO MEN managed to prey on this rural bank, the Bank of San Mateo on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, amid the setting up of police checkpoints and chokepoints around it.

ERIK ARAZAS

Chicken vans ditched

THREE 40-foot container vans loaded with smuggled chicken products worth P4.2 million yesterday were found abandoned in a vacant lot in Barangay Taboc, Angat, Bulacan.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, yesterday said the chicken products came from the United States and Canada.

The INQUIRER learned that the trucks were supposed to distribute the products in Bulacan public markets. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Stop smoking on the beat, cops told

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

WEAR proper police uniform when on duty. Bring small notebooks when going on patrol. And stop puffing cigarettes while at work.

And didn't President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier order the policemen to refrain from drinking in girlie bars?

The National Capital Region Police Office yesterday reminded the men of these instructions in two memorandums this week.

One memorandum contained instructions that marked police vehicles should be driven only by uniformed lawmen.

All policemen should also refrain from smoking while they are on duty inside police stations or pounding the beat.

In another memorandum, the NCRPO noted a "blatant disregard" of the ban on girlie bars, and warned that lawmen who insist on going to nightclubs face sanctions, including possible suspension from the service.

BF claims no hand in QC dispersal

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday denied that he had ordered his enforcers to disperse the 200 farmers protesting outside the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City on Thursday.

"My men were only involved in the clean-up operations (after the dispersal)," Fernando said in a phone interview. "The MMDA had earlier been requested to clean up the area."

Fernando also said it was not the MMDA's job to break up protest rallies and activities.

"*Wala kaming* role *sa ganun* (we do not have any role in those kinds of operations)," Fernando said.

He said the MMDA personnel might have been identified with the police dispersal unit because of their equipment which was seen near the area.

"The police do not have those kinds of vehicles and equipment," Fernando said.

He added that the Quezon City police had asked them to clean up the area after the dispersal operations. *Margaux Ortiz*

Morality non-issue in the election

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A CANDIDATE'S relationship with another woman not his wife or his children born out of wedlock was never an issue in past elections. Why should it be an issue now?

Let's face it, Filipino voters are forgiving towards male candidates who have fallen on the wayside on the morality issue. Filipinos don't only forgive these "sinners," they also look patronizingly on them.

It's in our culture. And there's nothing we can do about it.

* * *

I'm reminded of an anecdote about the late Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson. The anecdote is probably apocryphal but it has become an urban legend.

The anecdote goes that during the heat of the election campaign for the mayoral post of the country's premier city, his rival told a crowd that Lacson was not so well endowed.

His rival was right that he had a small organ, was Lacson's retort. "His wife told him about the size of my thing," said the feisty mayor, to the delight of the crowd.

* * *

Now, if Lacson was a candidate in the US, things would have been different. He would have been booed and shouted down by the crowd.

But we're Filipinos. We love to hear about the bedroom escapades of our candidates.

Filipinos are basically Peeping Toms. So, the more sexually "sinful" a candidate is, the more advantage he has over his opponents.

Look at Joseph "Erap" Estrada who flaunts his women and children. The *masa* sent him to Malacañang because they identified with his shortcomings, including the one about having sired many children out of wedlock.

* * *

Candidates who insist that morality should be an election issue are either hypocrites or babes in the woods.

You seldom come across a healthy Filipino male who, at one time or another, has not cheated on his wife.

Am I speaking for myself? Yes, and also for the rest of the Filipino machos.

* * *

Tell me which of our President was not a womanizer, and I'll tell you that you were born yesterday.

From Manuel L. Quezon to Joseph "Ejercito" Estrada, there was no exception.

I'm not trying to be Freudian, but most successful men are sexually active. The more successful a man is, the more sexually aggressive he is.

* * *

That presidential adviser who proposed a hotline between Malacañang and soldiers who have grievances against their superiors doesn't know how the military system works.

The military is an organization where orders, complaints, or praises get to the top brass, and vice versa, through channels.

Before an order from the commanding general of a division reaches, say, a lieutenant at the platoon level, it will have to pass through the general's staff officers, through the battalion commander, and finally through the lieutenant's company commander. You reverse the process when you talk about complaints reaching the general from the platoon level.

The military is a big bureaucracy and proud of its red tape.

The bureaucratic red tape is what discipline is all about in the military. Without the red tape discipline flies out the window.

In short, before the President, the commander in chief, knows about what's happening at the platoon level, her generals should know about it first. The President rules the troops through the generals.

IMPORTANT ADVISORY
TO ALL PLANHOLDERS OF
PACIFIC PLANS, INC.

Effective February 2, 2004, in compliance with BIR requirements, Pacific Plans has implemented a new Cash Receipt System for collections, which incorporates the use of PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS.

Our Company Agents shall issue PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS when receiving payments from Planholders. Planholders should expect to receive the computerized OFFICIAL RECEIPTS from the Company Agents within 7 DAYS in case of Online Branches and 15 DAYS in case of non-online branches from the time the PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS were issued.

The new PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS shall contain the following:
➢ Addresses of branches where Pacific Plans' Agents are affiliated
➢ TIN of the Pacific Plans' Branch

As part of the transition procedures that will allow compliance with the above-cited BIR requirements, Pacific Plans will continue to accept old OFFICIAL RECEIPTS issued by our Company Agents until February 29, 2004.

Effective March 1, 2004, Pacific Plans' Planholders must only accept PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS from their Agents, as Company Cashiers will no longer accept the old OFFICIAL RECEIPTS issued after the said date.

PACIFIC PLANS
A YGC Member

NEW
SMART
Buddy GSM
Pre-paid
How to survive a long distance relationship.
TOP 10
anti-loneliness tips
enny, Caregiver in New York

All your honey abroad needs on Valentine's Day is sweetness from your lips. Call her with Smart IDD.

The more you talk with your honeys abroad, the longer your long distance relationships will last. And with Smart IDD, you can call them everyday. It only costs 40¢ a minute, with crystal clear voice quality every time you call. So you'll never miss a lovely thing your loved ones have to say. Call now, and give them a happy Valentine's day!

Dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.
In U.S. Currency. Applicable to over 200 destinations worldwide, excluding INMARSAT.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

IDD
40¢
a minute

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

RP rider gets leader's jersey in nullified race

VAL HANDUMON

RAMOS: Provisional Tour leader

CONFUSION at the sprint finish yesterday marred a sensational start by the Pagcor-Casino Filipino Team in the Tour de Langkawi in Malaysia.

Merculio Ramos, runner-up to Arnel Quirimit in last year's FedEx Tour Pilipinas, was awarded the leader's jersey on time bonuses after Tour organizers declared annulment of Stage 1 results.

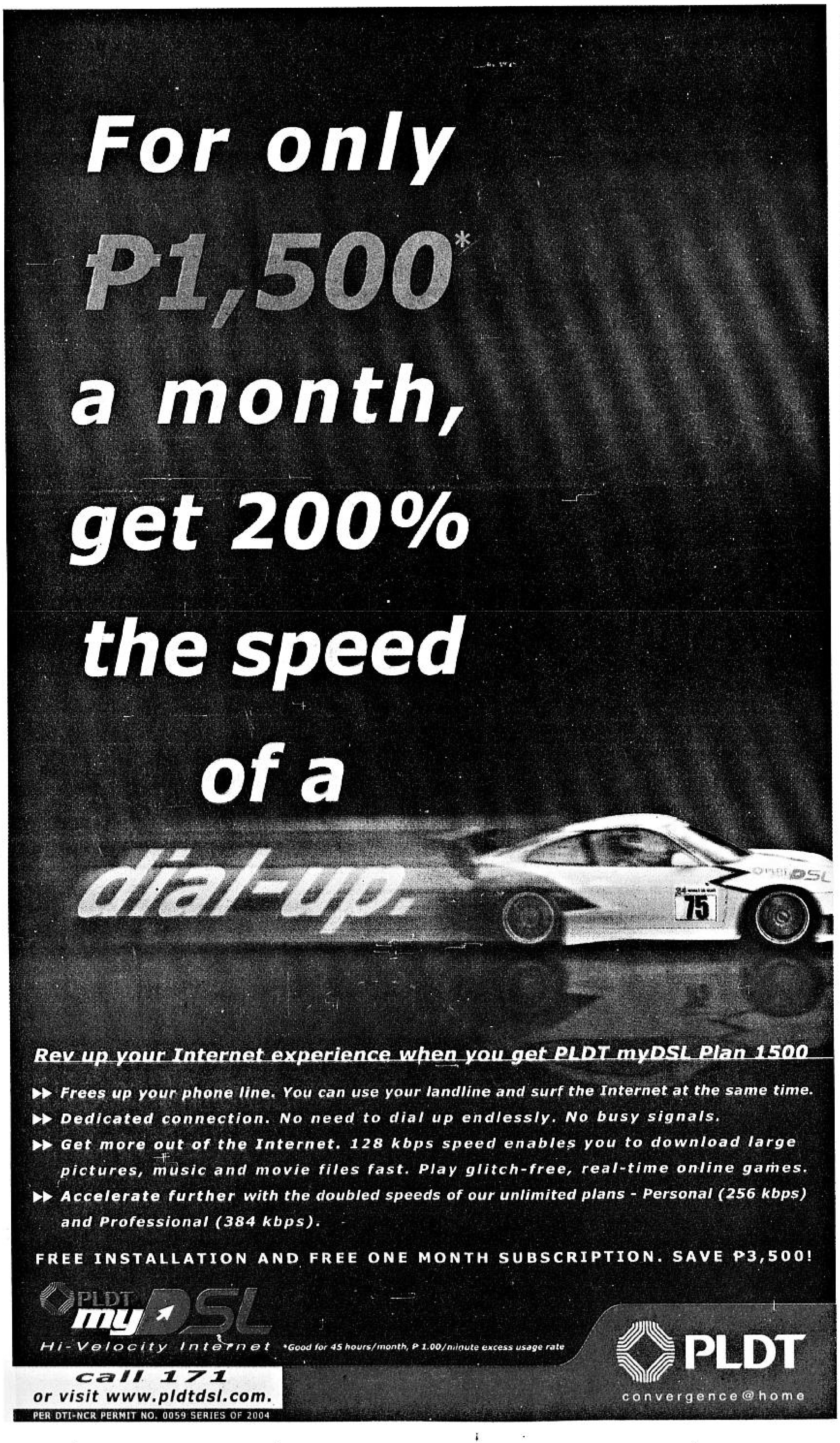
Ramos' teammate, Lucien Lloyd Reynate, will start with the blue and red jersey in today's stage for being the fastest Asian rider.

Blame was put on police cars that rushed to the finish circuit too early.

All riders from the big field were instead given identical times of 2.35.09.

"Due to traffic conditions in the final lap, the College of Commissair and the Race Organization have decided that Stage 1 is neutralized and points for Stage 1 are withdrawn," the statement said.

Ramos, a native of Tarlac City now living in Binalonan, Pangasinan, is a mainstay of the RP team that also includes Victor Espiritu, Rhyan Tanguilig, Alfie Catalan, Albert Primero and Ronald Gorantes.


For only P1,500* a month, get 200% the speed of a dial-up.

Rev up your Internet experience when you get PLDT myDSL Plan 1500

▸▸ Frees up your phone line. You can use your landline and surf the Internet at the same time.
▸▸ Dedicated connection. No need to dial up endlessly. No busy signals.
▸▸ Get more out of the Internet. 128 kbps speed enables you to download large pictures, music and movie files fast. Play glitch-free, real-time online games.
▸▸ Accelerate further with the doubled speeds of our unlimited plans - Personal (256 kbps) and Professional (384 kbps).

FREE INSTALLATION AND FREE ONE MONTH SUBSCRIPTION. SAVE P3,500!

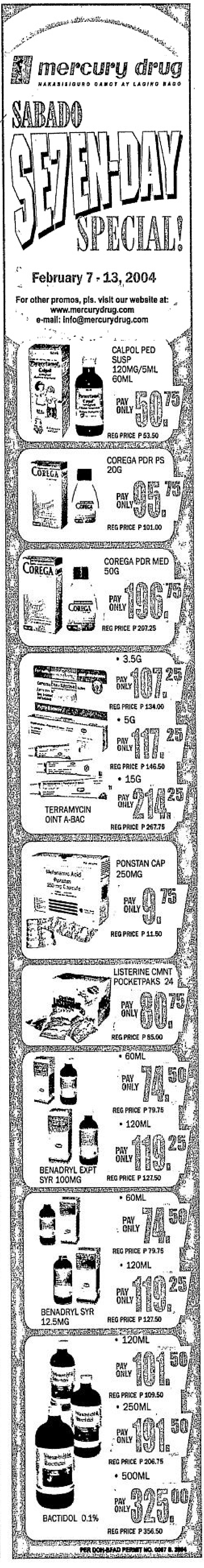
PLDT myDSL
Hi-Velocity Internet

*Good for 45 hours/month, P 1.00/minute excess usage rate

call 171
or visit www.pldtdsl.com.

PLDT
convergence@home

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0059 SERIES OF 2004


mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

SABADO SE7EN-DAY SPECIAL!

February 7 - 13, 2004

For other promos, pls. visit our website at:
www.mercurydrug.com
e-mail: info@mercurydrug.com

CALPOL PED SUSP 120MG/5ML 60ML
PAY ONLY 50.75
REG PRICE P 53.50

COREGA PDR PS 20G
PAY ONLY 95.75
REG PRICE P 101.00

COREGA PDR MED 50G
PAY ONLY 196.75
REG PRICE P 207.25

TERRAMYCIN OINT A-BAC
• 3.5G
PAY ONLY 107.25
REG PRICE P 134.00
• 5G
PAY ONLY 117.25
REG PRICE P 146.50
• 15G
PAY ONLY 214.25
REG PRICE P 267.75

PONSTAN CAP 250MG
PAY ONLY 9.75
REG PRICE P 11.50

LISTERINE CMNT POCKETPAKS 24
PAY ONLY 80.75
REG PRICE P 85.00

BENADRYL EXPT SYR 100MG
• 60ML
PAY ONLY 74.50
REG PRICE P 79.75
• 120ML
PAY ONLY 119.25
REG PRICE P 127.50

BENADRYL SYR 12.5MG
• 60ML
PAY ONLY 74.50
REG PRICE P 79.75
• 120ML
PAY ONLY 119.25
REG PRICE P 127.50

BACTIDOL 0.1%
• 120ML
PAY ONLY 101.50
REG PRICE P 109.50
• 250ML
PAY ONLY 191.50
REG PRICE P 206.75
• 500ML
PAY ONLY 325.00
REG PRICE P 356.50

PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO. 0087 S. 2004

CALMA

LOYZAGA

Calma, Loyzaga back as PBA team managers

By June Navarro

FORMER basketball superstars Hector Calma and Chito Loyzaga are back in the Philippine Basketball Association as team managers of clubs under the San Miguel Corp. umbrella.

Calma, named as one of the PBA greats during the league's 25th anniversary five years ago, will be tasked to handle the Reinforced Conference champions Coca-Cola Tigers beginning with the PBA Fiesta Conference on Feb. 22.

Known as "The Director" for calling the plays as a San Miguel Beerman in the '80s, Calma is set to replace former Coca-Cola Tigers team manager Jess Macias.

Loyzaga, a defensive and rebound specialist for the defunct Toyota Corollas and the Ginebra Gin Kings, will take over the post held by San Miguel Beer team manager Robert Non for the past four seasons.

Two other noted PBA cagers were shoved into the basketball operations picture of the food and beverage conglomerate, which owns four of the 10 PBA teams.

Eric Altamirano, former coach of Mobiline and Purefoods, was tapped to manage Ginebra while the TJ Hotdogs named Ed Cordero of Toyota fame as their new manager.

Altamirano and Cordero, both bench strategists for the San Miguel All-Stars, a team made up of former PBA stars, replaced Barangay Ginebra's Ira Maniquis and Rene Pardo of Purefoods, respectively.

Pardo will be elevated to the PBA Board of Governors as the TJ Hotdogs' representative together with Purefoods president Butch Alejo while Maniquis and Non go back to head SMC's Corporate Affairs Office.

Like Purefoods, the three other clubs also changed their representatives to the board.

Former Purefoods coach Ely Capacio will now represent the Beermen along with PBA board vice chair Bert Manlapit, while La Tondeña president Arnaldo Africa and Hector Guballa will serve as governors of Ginebra and Coca-Cola, respectively.

All-or-nothing Welcoat-Fash finale today

DEFENDING champion Welcoat Paints and Fash Liquid Laundry Detergent collide today in a fitting winner-take-all match for the PBL Platinum Cup championship at the Philsports Arena.

The Paint Masters and the Liquid Power clash for the fifth time at 2 p.m. to cap a titular series marked by several twists and turns and an exciting sideshow pitting Fash's Peter June Simon against Welcoat's Jojo Tangkay.

The Simon-Tangkay matchup also played a major role in the decision of commissioner Chino Trinidad to resign at halftime of Game 3, later won by Welcoat after the Paint Masters protested the choice of Simon as Most Valuable Player over Tangkay.

The two coaches predict a thriller of a finale.

"*Kung sino ang may puso, siya ang mananalo* (The team with the big fighting heart will win)," said Fash coach Junel Baculi.

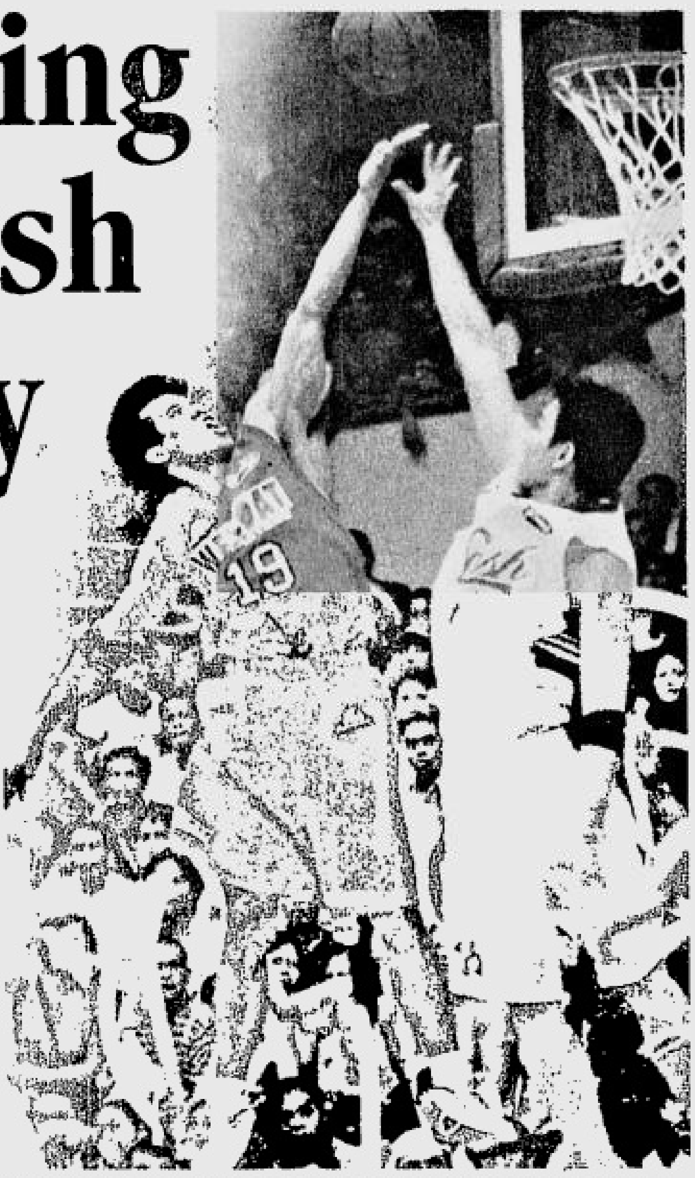
Welcoat coach Leo Austria agreed.

"There's no question about the heart and desire of my boys, *lahat sila gustong manalo* (everybody wants to win), so I'm sure it's going to be another close call," said Austria.

Simon, from Makilala, North Cotabato, sent the series to the limit when he carried the Liquid Power to a spine-tingling 72-64 Game 4 win that saw the MVP score 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter.

As usual, admission is free today with movie comedian and TV host Bayani Agbayani performing at halftime.

GAME TODAY ***(Philsports Arena)***
2 p.m.—Welcoat vs Fash
Game 1—Welcoat 78, Fash Liquid 60
Game 2—Fash 84, Welcoat 80 (2 OT)
Game 3—Welcoat 60, Fash 53
Game 4—Fash 72, Welcoat 64


TANGKAY of Welcoat Paints drives against Francis Mercado of Fash during Game Four action Thursday. Fash prevailed. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SPORTSWATCH

Don Bosco XI ties Maco in Coke opener

STA. BARBARA, Iloilo—Negros Occidental's Don Bosco Technical Institute came back early in the second half to forge a 1-1 deadlock with Compostela Valley's Maco National High yesterday at the start of the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football finals here. Aljohn Neduelan struck in the 40th minute to level the count after Don Bosco's Romeo John Alarcon had broken the ice in the 10th minute. Host Iloilo was playing Dipolog at presstime in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Corp. Two other teams—Luzon champion Masbate and National Capital Region's Ateneo de Manila—are competing in the event. Iloilo, Dipolog and Masbate are bracketed in Group A, while Negros Occidental, Compostela Valley and NCR play in Group B. JB Baylon, Coca-Cola Export's public affairs and communications director, and PFF chair emeritus Rene Z. Adad were among those who graced yesterday's opening ceremony. Action continues today with NCR facing Compostela Valley at 8 a.m. and Dipolog meeting Masbate at 10 o'clock.

San Beda booters rout Mapua

SAN Beda revered center-forward Dan 'The Bull' Padernal produced a hat trick even before the first half was done as the Red Lions thrashed the Mapua Cardinal. 7-0, in the NCAA football tournament at the La Salle Greenhills pitch in Ortigas. Padernal struck in the 16th, 30th and 44th minutes of the contest. Coach Aris Caslib's Red Lions relentlessly probed for gaps and Apacible, Tahil, Melendrez and Jiao contributed a goal each to the romp as the defending champions sharpened their focus on the senior title.

Bronco baseball first-day winners

ST. MARCELLIN, Marikina Heights and Jesus dela Pena led winners in the opening last Sunday of the First Marikina Bronco Baseball Tournament at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City. Other teams that saw action in the launch-off were Nangka, Malanday, Sto. Nino Saints. Four more squads--Balanti, Barangka, San Roque, Sto. Nino Angels--are set to play this weekend, tournament organizer Ricky Florencio said yesterday.

Roligon anniversary derby resumes

THOUSANDS of *sabong* enthusiasts are expected to troop to the Roligon Mega Cockpit early today at the resumption of the "14th Anniversary 7-Cock Derby." The six-day event has attracted a total of 278 entries. Roligon owner and derby host Rolly Ligon has put up a guaranteed prize of P3.6 million, with the entry fee pegged at P11,000. Nine more cockers joined the elite cast of finalists who will vie for the jackpot prize on Feb. 12. They are William Tan and Eddie Araneta, Pol and Boy Royo, Norberto Tanongon, Larry Malihan, Erwin Diamante, lawyer Carlos, Noel Noleta of Quezon, Jomari entry and Art de Castro. According to Roligon general manager Danny Ty, breeders from Negros Occidental, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo have confirmed their participation in the derby and will field seven cocks each during the finals on Feb. 12. For other inquiries, call 852-9812, 852-9774, 833-2275, 833-1638.

Manila, Pampanga cockers in showdown

COCKFIGHTING heavyweights from Metro Manila and Pampanga will vie in the "Sagupaan for the Big Boys 5-Cock Derby" on Wednesday at the Pampanga Coliseum. The showdown will be hosted by Patrick Antonio and sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Among the Metro Manila cockers seeing action are Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo, Blandy Tolentino, Tony Lasala, Biboy Enriquez, Raymond Velayo, Eric de la Rosa, Butchoy Olano, Louie Cua, Gov. Ito Yñares, Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar. The Pampanga big guns include Terence Madlambayan, Jet and Joel Fernando, Eric Lu, Efren Canlas, Val Garcia, Rene Pineda and Nestor Salunga. Submission of weights is on derby day, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For inquiries, call 0917-8307812.

UAAP champs Tams rout Stags, keep lead

REIGNING UAAP champion Far Eastern University ripped San Sebastian, 85-62, recently to keep the Group I leadership in the Red Bull-sponsored Lito Puyat Cup invitational basketball tournament at the FEU gym. The Tamaraws surged to a 58-37 halftime lead and never looked back en route to their fifth consecutive victory in the tourney organized by Micaba's Cenon "Pipay" Buenaventura and sponsored by Red Bull and Agfa Colors. Former four-time UAAP titlist La Salle Green Archers kept the Tamaraws within sight by blasting Philippine Christian University, 81-49, for their fifth win in six games. In other games, NCAA champion Letran downed Ateneo, 66-62, and PCU B subdued the University of the Santo Tomas Tigers, 73-64. Earlier in the week, the Tigers thumped the Mapua Cardinals, 85-74, at the UST gym. PCU paces Group II at 5-1, followed by idle UP (4-1).

DAVIS Cup players and team officials from the Philippines and China with Fossil representatives during the drawing of lots for the tie at the Holiday Inn Manila Galleria recently. Distributions manager Malu Nuñez (right), marketing manager Lorez Manalang and brand manager Julie Tan unveiled Fossil's limited-edition Davis Cup watch during the event.

Eric's tragedy

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THEY want Eric Buhain out.

And then what? Expect a coming out party for and a sweetheart pact with whoever is tapped to replace him?

Man, the presidential election is barely 90 days away. Ate Glo is simply not expected to just give in to Bolshevism at this late hour of the day. There are chores more pressing than sporting matters. Like ensuring that she wins a 6-year term come May 10; the rest, my dear folks, takes the back seat for the moment. Even Jose Pidal.

While it's true Eric serves at the pleasure of the President, Ate Glo can't possibly fire Eric now, else she'll just be creating more problems than solutions. Not easy looking for a suitable replacement this late in her reign. Modesty aside, I can't even accept the job. I'd rather give the post of PBL commissioner a serious thought than become PSC chairman. Not my type. Not under GMA. Under FPJ, maybe? But that's another story.

To go back to the oust-Buhain move, I'd say that's old hat. Buhain or no Buhain, it happens all the time. The PSC chairman cannot please everybody. The glitter of gold attracts both evil and good. Where the money is, problems—invented or otherwise—sprout like mushrooms. Where the money is, people get drawn to it like ants to sugar.

The unhappy complain, the happy don't.

Usually, the unhappy are those that don't get what they want; normally, they gripe that they are not given enough. Or, they feel they are being discriminated against. Or, worse, they see themselves left out in the cold when it's bounty-distribution time.

The happy? They sit back, relaxed, amused at the whole caboodle.

It was reported that 9, 12—or is it really 20 now?—officials of national sports associations have asked for Eric's resignation. They cite as reason Eric's alleged indifference to their financial plight. Specifically, they complain that they have not been getting enough from the PSC kitty.

But I am a little confused. One member of the group called me up to say he and his fellow disgruntled officials are not really demanding for Eric's resignation.

"We just want reforms," he said. "Eric is my friend. *Walang personalan dito*. We just want changes made, like we are not getting enough from him to finance our projects."

For now, I will not mention his name. He had wanted me to hear them air their gripes at Dusit Hotel (a la Oakwood mutiny?) on Thursday. I would have wanted to, but an earlier commitment (it was actually the "Nature in Oil" art exhibit of Emily A. Marcelo at Le Souffle) prevented me from being there.

Another official said, "I sympathize with my fellow officials but sorry, I could not sign the manifesto asking for Eric's ouster in deference to a man who is dear to both Eric and me."

It's always easy to demand for the ouster of anyone. For what sin, crime, he/she has committed, why you need solid proof to back that up.

Griping is one thing, accusing is another.

You gripe about something, you are just a kid; a toy balloon or a scoop of ice cream will do it.

You accuse someone with something serious enough as to even besmirch his/her reputation, you must arm yourself with evidence. Otherwise, shut up if you can't put up.

What exactly do they want? More money from Eric?

You bet, yes. Otherwise, there wouldn't be griping in our midst.

Does Eric have money?

Sure. But does he have enough for everybody?

You bet, no. He can only give so much to everybody. And that's Eric's tragedy. Man, by nature, has always been the most unsatisfied animal on planet Earth.

Valentin Dakuykoy has told me that of the 1,682 athletes or so from the national training pool drawing monthly allowances from the PSC, only about 250 had won medals last year—most of them accomplishing it in the last SEA Games in Vietnam.

Of what use the rest from the pool are all this time, I don't know. I can hazard a guess: They are but decorations. Figure out the amount of money being spent annually for their maintenance. Sum it all up and you could probably use the money to build a new sports complex big enough to house all the venues for next year's Manila SEA Games.

You want Eric Buhain's head?

Go ahead, make his day. Make Ate Glo agree to fire him. Now.

***

FASTBREAK. Tess Landrito of DHL and WWW Express is calling on alumni and friends of San Roque Catholic School in Alabang to join the school's 23rd Foundation Day festivities from Feb. 12-14. PBA players Nick Belasco and Dorian Peña and other Alaska players are expected to grace the occasion to be capped by a Fun Walk on Feb. 14.

NEW SMART Buddy Pre-paid presents
JASON MRAZ
LIVE IN MANILA
with special guest
PAOLO SANTOS
FEBRUARY 21, 2004 (SATURDAY) 8 PM
ALIW THEATER, STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
50% SOLD OUT
FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS CALL
TICKETWORLD AT 891-5610 OR VISIT
TICKETWORLD. WEBSITE www.ticketworld.com.ph
CD IN STORES NOW! JASONMRAZ.COM
EVENTSCAPE MANILA PRODUCTION 2004
For inquiries, call 5610442 or 5617606
also brought to you by
LIVE CHAT with Jason Mraz call 1-900-6060742
URBANSPA
WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

Calma, Loyzaga back as PBA team managers

CALMA

LOYZAGA

By June Navarro

FORMER basketball superstars Hector Calma and Chito Loyzaga are back in the Philippine Basketball Association as team managers of clubs under the San Miguel Corp. umbrella.

Calma, named as one of the PBA greats during the league's 25th anniversary five years ago, will be tasked to handle the Reinforced Conference champions Coca-Cola Tigers beginning with the PBA Fiesta Conference on Feb. 22.

Known as "The Director" for calling the plays as a San Miguel Beerman in the '80s, Calma is set to replace former Coca-Cola Tigers team manager Jess Macias.

Loyzaga, a defensive and rebound specialist for the defunct Toyota Corollas and the Ginebra Gin Kings, will take over the post held by San Miguel Beer team manager Robert Non for the past four seasons.

Two other noted PBA cagers were shoved into the basketball operations picture of the food and beverage conglomerate, which owns four of the 10 PBA teams.

Eric Altamirano, former coach of Mobiline and Purefoods, was tapped to manage Ginebra while the TJ Hotdogs named Ed Cordero of Toyota fame as their new manager.

Altamirano and Cordero, both bench strategists for the San Miguel All-Stars, a team made up of former PBA stars, replaced Barangay Ginebra's Ira Maniquis and Rene Pardo of Purefoods, respectively.

Pardo will be elevated to the PBA Board of Governors as the TJ Hotdogs' representative together with Purefoods president Butch Alejo while Maniquis and Non go back to head SMC's Corporate Affairs Office.

Like Purefoods, the three other clubs also changed their representatives to the board.

Former Purefoods coach Ely Capacio will now represent the Beermen along with PBA board vice chair Bert Manlapit, while La Tondeña president Arnaldo Africa and Hector Guballa will serve as governors of Ginebra and Coca-Cola, respectively.

All-or-nothing Welcoat-Fash finale today

DEFENDING champion Welcoat Paints and Fash Liquid Laundry Detergent collide today in a fitting winner-take-all match for the PBL Platinum Cup championship at the Philsports Arena.

The Paint Masters and the Liquid Power clash for the fifth time at 2 p.m. to cap a titular series marked by several twists and turns and an exciting sideshow pitting Fash's Peter June Simon against Welcoat's Jojo Tangkay.

The Simon-Tangkay matchup also played a major role in the decision of commissioner Chino Trinidad to resign at halftime of Game 3, later won by Welcoat after the Paint Masters protested the choice of Simon as Most Valuable Player over Tangkay.

The two coaches predict a thriller of a finale.

"Kung sino ang may puso, siya ang mananalo (The team with the big fighting heart will win)," said Fash coach Junel Baculi.

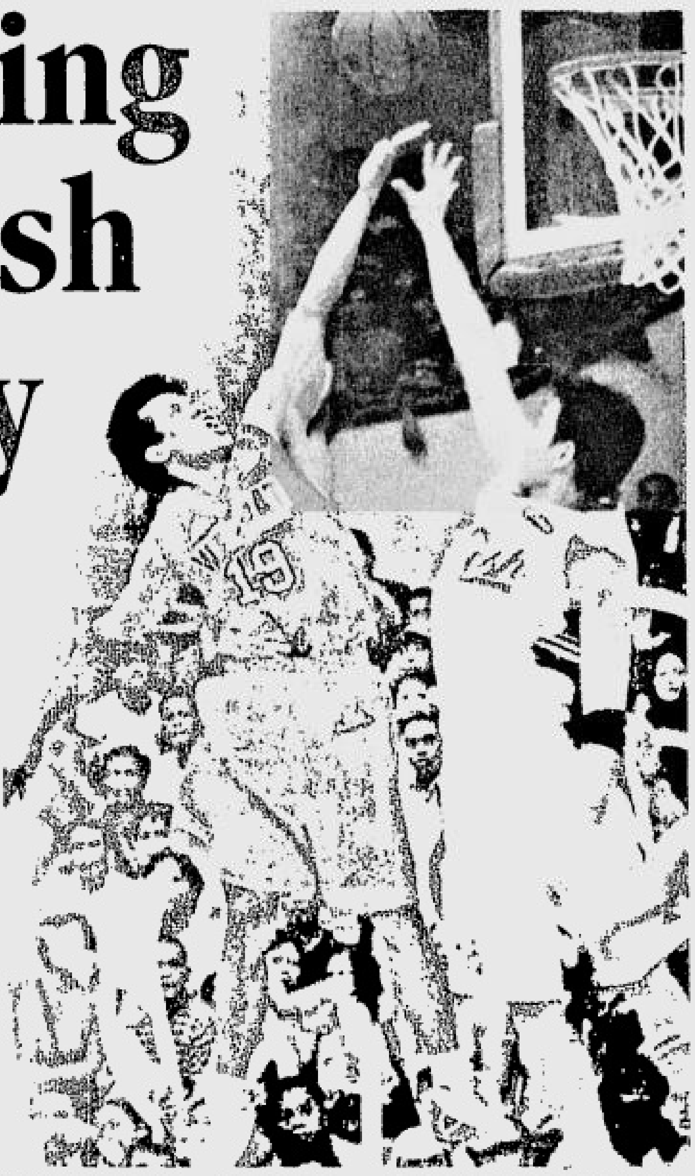
Welcoat coach Leo Austria agreed.

"There's no question about the heart and desire of my boys, *lahat sila gustong manalo* (everybody wants to win), so I'm sure it's going to be another close call," said Austria.

Simon, from Makilala, North Cotabato, sent the series to the limit when he carried the Liquid Power to a spine-tingling 72-64 Game 4 win that saw the MVP score 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter.

As usual, admission is free today with movie comedian and TV host Bayani Agbayani performing at halftime.

GAME TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
2 p.m.—Welcoat vs Fash
Game 1—Welcoat 78, Fash Liquid 60
Game 2—Fash 84, Welcoat 80 (2 OT)
Game 3—Welcoat 60, Fash 53
Game 4—Fash 72, Welcoat 64


TANGKAY of Welcoat Paints drives against Francis Mercado of Fash during Game Four action Thursday. Fash prevailed. ERNIE U SARMIENTO

Eric's tragedy

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THEY want Eric Buhain out.

And then what? Expect a coming out party for and a sweetheart pact with whoever is tapped to replace him?

Man, the presidential election is barely 90 days away. Ate Glo is simply not expected to just give in to Bolshevism at this late hour of the day. There are chores more pressing than sporting matters. Like ensuring that she wins a 6-year term come May 10; the rest, my dear folks, takes the back seat for the moment. Even Jose Pidal.

While it's true Eric serves at the pleasure of the President, Ate Glo can't possibly fire Eric now, else she'll just be creating more problems than solutions. Not easy looking for a suitable replacement this late in her reign. Modesty aside, I can't even accept the job. I'd rather give the post of PBL commissioner a serious thought than become PSC chairman. Not my type. Not under GMA. Under FPJ, maybe? But that's another story.

To go back to the oust-Buhain move, I'd say that's old hat. Buhain or no Buhain, it happens all the time. The PSC chairman cannot please everybody. The glitter of gold attracts both evil and good. Where the money is, problems—invented or otherwise—sprout like mushrooms. Where the money is, people get drawn to it like ants to sugar.

The unhappy complain, the happy don't.

Usually, the unhappy are those that don't get what they want; normally, they gripe that they are not given enough. Or, they feel they are being discriminated against. Or, worse, they see themselves left out in the cold when it's bounty-distribution time.

The happy? They sit back, relaxed, amused at the whole caboodle.

It was reported that 9, 12—or is it really 20 now?—officials of national sports associations have asked for Eric's resignation. They cite as reason Eric's alleged indifference to their financial plight. Specifically, they complain that they have not been getting enough from the PSC kitty.

But I am a little confused. One member of the group called me up to say he and his fellow disgruntled officials are not really demanding for Eric's resignation.

"We just want reforms," he said. "Eric is my friend. *Walang personalan dito.* We just want changes made, like we are not getting enough from him to finance our projects."

For now, I will not mention his name. He had wanted me to hear them air their gripes at Dusit Hotel (a la Oakwood mutiny?) on Thursday. I would have wanted to, but an earlier commitment (it was actually the "Nature in Oil" art exhibit of Emily A. Marcelo at Le Souffle) prevented me from being there.

Another official said, "I sympathize with my fellow officials but sorry, I could not sign the manifesto asking for Eric's ouster in deference to a man who is dear to both Eric and me."

It's always easy to demand for the ouster of anyone. For what sin, crime, he/she has committed, why you need solid proof to back that up.

Griping is one thing, accusing is another.

You gripe about something, you are just a kid; a toy balloon or a scoop of ice cream will do it.

You accuse someone with something serious enough as to even besmirch his/her reputation, you must arm yourself with evidence. Otherwise, shut up if you can't put up.

What exactly do they want? More money from Eric?

You bet, yes. Otherwise, there wouldn't be griping in our midst.

Does Eric have money?

Sure. But does he have enough for everybody?

You bet, no. He can only give so much to everybody. And that's Eric's tragedy. Man, by nature, has always been the most unsatisfied animal on planet Earth.

Valentin Dakuykoy has told me that of the 1,682 athletes or so from the national training pool drawing monthly allowances from the PSC, only about 250 had won medals last year—most of them accomplishing it in the last SEA Games in Vietnam.

Of what use the rest from the pool are all this time, I don't know. I can hazard a guess: They are but decorations. Figure out the amount of money being spent annually for their maintenance. Sum it all up and you could probably use the money to build a new sports complex big enough to house all the venues for next year's Manila SEA Games.

You want Eric Buhain's head?

Go ahead, make his day. Make Ate Glo agree to fire him. Now.

***

FASTBREAK. Tess Landrito of DHL and WWW Express is calling on alumni and friends of San Roque Catholic School in Alabang to join the school's 23rd Foundation Day festivities from Feb. 12-14. PBA players Nick Belasco and Dorian Peña and other Alaska players are expected to grace the occasion to be capped by a Fun Walk on Feb. 14.

SPORTSWATCH

Don Bosco XI ties Maco in Coke opener

STA. BARBARA, Iloilo—Negros Occidental's Don Bosco Technical Institute came back early in the second half to forge a 1-1 deadlock with Compostela Valley's Maco National High yesterday at the start of the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football finals here. Aljohn Neduelan struck in the 40th minute to level the count after Don Bosco's Romeo John Alarcon had broken the ice in the 10th minute. Host Iloilo was playing Dipolog at presstime in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Corp. Two other teams—Luzon champion Masbate and National Capital Region's Ateneo de Manila—are competing in the event. Iloilo, Dipolog and Masbate are bracketed in Group A, while Negros Occidental, Compostela Valley and NCR play in Group B. JB Baylon, Coca-Cola Export's public affairs and communications director, and PFF chair emeritus Rene Z. Adad were among those who graced yesterday's opening ceremony. Action continues today with NCR facing Compostela Valley at 8 a.m. and Dipolog meeting Masbate at 10 o'clock.

San Beda booters rout Mapua

SAN Beda revered center-forward Dan 'The Bull' Padernal produced a hat trick even before the first half was done as the Red Lions thrashed the Mapua Cardinal. 7-0, in the NCAA football tournament at the La Salle Greenhills pitch in Ortigas. Padernal struck in the 16th, 30th and 44th minutes of the contest. Coach Aris Caslib's Red Lions relentlessly probed for gaps and Apacible, Tahil, Melendrez and Jiao contributed a goal each to the romp as the defending champions sharpened their focus on the senior title.

Bronco baseball first-day winners

ST. MARCELLIN, Marikina Heights and Jesus dela Pena led winners in the opening last Sunday of the First Marikina Bronco Baseball Tournament at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City. Other teams that saw action in the launch-off were Nangka, Malanday, Sto. Nino Saints. Four more squads--Balanti, Barangka, San Roque, Sto. Nino Angels--are set to play this weekend, tournament organizer Ricky Florencio said yesterday.

Roligon anniversary derby resumes

THOUSANDS of *sabong* enthusiasts are expected to troop to the Roligon Mega Cockpit early today at the resumption of the "14th Anniversary 7-Cock Derby." The six-day event has attracted a total of 278 entries. Roligon owner and derby host Rolly Ligon has put up a guaranteed prize of P3.6 million, with the entry fee pegged at P11,000. Nine more cockers joined the elite cast of finalists who will vie for the jackpot prize on Feb. 12. They are William Tan and Eddie Araneta, Pol and Boy Royo, Norberto Tanongon, Larry Malihan, Erwin Diamante, lawyer Carlos, Noel Noleta of Quezon, Jomari entry and Art de Castro. According to Roligon general manager Danny Ty, breeders from Negros Occidental, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo have confirmed their participation in the derby and will field seven cocks each during the finals on Feb. 12. For other inquiries, call 852-9812, 852-9774, 833-2275, 833-1638.

Manila, Pampanga cockers in showdown

COCKFIGHTING heavyweights from Metro Manila and Pampanga will vie in the "Sagupaan for the Big Boys 5-Cock Derby" on Wednesday at the Pampanga Coliseum. The showdown will be hosted by Patrick Antonio and sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Among the Metro Manila cockers seeing action are Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo, Blandy Tolentino, Tony Lasala, Biboy Enriquez, Raymond Velayo, Eric de la Rosa, Butchoy Olano, Louie Cua, Gov. Ito Yñares, Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar. The Pampanga big guns include Terence Madlambayan, Jet and Joel Fernando, Eric Lu, Efren Canlas, Val Garcia, Rene Pineda and Nestor Salunga. Submission of weights is on derby day, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For inquiries, call 0917-8307812.

UAAP champs Tams rout Stags, keep lead

REIGNING UAAP champion Far Eastern University ripped San Sebastian, 85-62, recently to keep the Group I leadership in the Red Bull-sponsored Lito Puyat Cup invitational basketball tournament at the FEU gym. The Tamaraws surged to a 58-37 halftime lead and never looked back en route to their fifth consecutive victory in the tourney organized by Micaba's Cenon "Pipay" Buenaventura and sponsored by Red Bull and Agfa Colors. Former four-time UAAP titlist La Salle Green Archers kept the Tamaraws within sight by blasting Philippine Christian University, 81-49, for their fifth win in six games. In other games, NCAA champion Letran downed Ateneo, 66-62, and PCU B subdued the University of the Santo Tomas Tigers, 73-64. Earlier in the week, the Tigers thumped the Mapua Cardinals, 85-74, at the UST gym. PCU paces Group II at 5-1, followed by idle UP (4-1).

DAVIS Cup players and team officials from the Philippines and China with Fossil representatives during the drawing of lots for the tie at the Holiday Inn Manila Galleria recently. Distributions manager Malu Nuñez (right), marketing manager Lorez Manalang and brand manager Julie Tan unveiled Fossil's limited-edition Davis Cup watch during the event.

NEW SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid presents
JASON MRAZ
LIVE IN MANILA
50% SOLD OUT
with special guest
PAOLO SANTOS
FEBRUARY 21, 2004 (SATURDAY) 8 PM
ALIW THEATER, STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS CALL
TICKETWORLD AT 891-5610 OR VISIT
TICKETWORLD WEBSITE www.ticketworld.com.ph
CD IN STORES NOW!
JASONMRAZ.COM
EVENTSCAPE MANILA PRODUCTION 2004
For inquiries, call 5610442 or 5617606
also brought to you by
LIVE CHAT with Jason Mraz call 1-900-0908742
URBANSPA
BLAZE
MAGIC 89.9
103.5
UNCLE TOBYS
WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Petron awards cash incentives to taekwondo medal winners

TAEKWONDO fighters who won gold, silver or bronze medals in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam last December received cash incentives recently from Petron Corp.

Petron chair and CEO Nicasio Alcantara and president Khalid D. Al-Faddagh handed out the awards to the members of the Petron-Philippine Taekwondo Team in simple rites held on Jan. 15 at the Petron Megaplaza Building in Makati City.

The five gold medalists—Donald David Geisler III, Dax Alberto Morfe, Margarita Maria Estela Bonifacio, Veronica Domingo, and Mary Antonette Rivero—each received P50,000.

The silver medalists, who got P25,000 each, were Dindo Simpao, Alexander Briones and Kalindi Tamayo.

Former world championships silver medalist Roberto Cruz, Jeferthom Go, Manuel Rivero Jr., Ann Margarte Boyle, Sally Solis and Eva Marie Ditan received P10,000 each for landing the bronze medal.

"We have always been an avid supporter of Philippine taekwondo," said Alcantara. "The company not only supports athletes for international competitions but also the development of taekwondo at the grassroots level."

Petron, which has backed taekwondo since 1999, is believed to be the first corporate sponsor to hand out cash incentives to Filipino medal winners in the last SEAG.

"We have supported and will continue to support the national contingent in all major international competitions including the World Taekwondo Championships, SEA Games, Asian Games and the Olympics," said Al-Faddagh. "The (medal winners) from the SEA Games offer the best chance for the country to garner gold in the world championships and even the forthcoming 2004 Olympics in Athens."

Meanwhile, selected members of the Petron-national team will start training for world competitions this year, with Geisler plunging into action first in the Olympic qualifier in Thailand.

"I believe I have a very good chance because there are no Koreans in my division. The Koreans are the best in this sport," Geisler said.

Team manager Manolo Gabriel said the fighters' stringent training regimen, set by Korean coach Kim Tae Yung and his Filipino counterparts Victor Immanuel Veneracion and Jesus Morales III, has made them at par with the world's best.

INDEFATIGABLE: China's Lu hits a wicked forehand off Arcilla in the first match.

Chinese sweep opening singles

RP pushed toward Davis Cup precipice

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

THE PHILIPPINES fell into a deep hole yesterday as the country's top two players went down in the face of superior Chinese opposition in the opening singles of their Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone Group II tie.

All RP No.1 Johnny Arcilla could do was win a set against Lu Hao, and Joseph Victorino took only four games against Yu Xinyuan as the visitors gave China a seemingly insurmountable 2-0 lead heading into the crucial doubles today.

Lu and Yu, both Davis Cup rookies fresh out of the junior ranks, simply proved too good for the Filipinos, who were expecting their rivals to wilt in Metro Manila's hot weather.

Arcilla bungled a 5-1 lead in the first set then bowed, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3), in two hours and 58 minutes to Lu.

Victorino lost in straight sets to the harder-hitting Yu, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 in just an hour and 40 minutes.

It was a big letdown for the Filipinos, who looked ready to draw first blood after Arcilla had taken that 5-1 lead over the 20-year-old Lu, a fleet-footed, hard-working southpaw who chases down balls with reckless abandon.

"He lost his focus after taking that 5-1 lead," said non-playing captain Johnny Jose of Arcilla. "Then after winning the second set, his game changed."

"We have no choice but to win the doubles tomorrow," added Jose, who will field Arcilla and veteran Adelo Abadia against the team of Yu and Xu Ran in the match set at 1 p.m. also at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Center in Pasig.

The Philippines, complaining of the bitter cold, also lost its tie to China in Wuhan last year, 5-0. Another loss could send the Filipinos into a relegation match against either Kuwait or Hong Kong for the right to stay in Group II next year.

China is now the odds-on pick to win the doubles with Xu, the only remnant of that victorious Chinese team, teaming up with Yu.

Arcilla, who dropped to 8-6 lifetime in Davis Cup singles play, appeared to be in control of the match by taking the second set. But Lu, who seemed comfortable in the slow shell-clay court, asserted himself again by losing just nine points in the third set.

Guerrero's father wants Pasa side

By Trina Ibarle, *Contributor*

THE FATHER of national swimmer Jenny Rose Guerrero wants the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) to look into circumstances that led to his daughter's lackluster performance in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam last December.

In particular, Jenny's father Jun appealed to Pasa president Chito Ilagan to investigate the association's Executive Committee for denying his daughter a chance to avail of the "Alay Suporta sa Atletang Pilipino" (Asap) Program sponsored by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The program would have given Jenny the rare chance to work out and train in the company of Kosuke Kitajima of Japan, the world record holder in the 100m and 200m breaststroke, just before the SEAG.

The elder Guerrero said Pasa officials took over the training of swimmers, when Japanese coach Rzuzu Ishikawa was sacked, without proper planning, including a regular venue and trainer.

Jenny had no choice but to train under Pasa's appointed coach, Guy Concepcion, who had a different training plan from what she was already involved in barely three months prior to the Vietnam trip.

"The other swim coaches even said that they (Pasa) shouldn't have done that, with only two months of preparation left before the SEA Games. *Maganda na yung* time *niya at mataas na ang* confidence level *niya* (She already has good times and her confidence level was high)," Mr Guerrero pointed out.

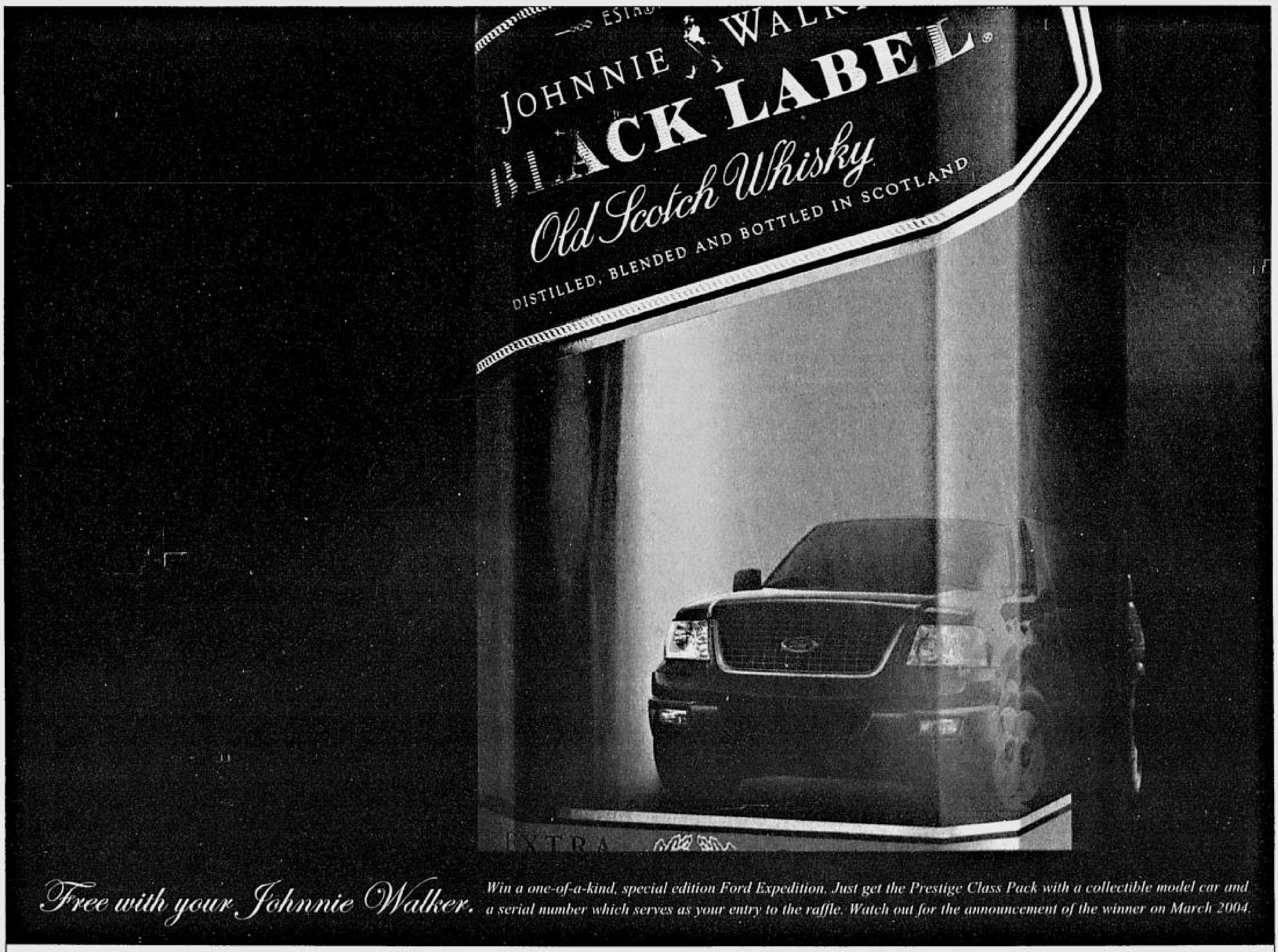
"Still, she was made to go back to endurance training when she was supposed to be improving on her speed at that crucial time before the event. *Binabago pa nila ang* (They even tried to change the) stroke *ni* (of) Jenny," added Guerrero.

As a result, Guerrero, a breaststroke specialist who won a silver and three bronze medals in the 21st SEA Games in Malaysia, failed to even get into the top three in her favorite events.

Jun lamented his daughter's plight, saying Jenny gave up her scholarship at the Eastern Michigan University in the US just to prepare for the SEA Games.

"She already gave up the opportunity to pursue her studies in the States, only for this to happen," Guerrero said

The INQUIRER tried to get in touch with Pasa president Chito Ilagan and secretary general Chito Rivera to no avail.



Free with your Johnnie Walker. Win a one-of-a-kind, special edition Ford Expedition. Just get the Prestige Class Pack with a collectible model car and a serial number which serves as your entry to the raffle. Watch out for the announcement of the winner on March 2004.

Prestige Class Promo Mechanics
Promo Duration November 2003 – February 15, 2004
Who Can Join? Only those 18 years old and above can join the promo. Employees of Diageo Phils., Inc., its advertising agencies, suppliers, distributors and participating outlets and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
How to Join? Purchase as many promoted bundled packs of either 1 liter or 700ml Johnnie Walker Black Label Prestige Class Promo Pack to have more chances of winning the ONE-OF-A-KIND FORD EXPEDITION. Look under the plastic base of the model car. There are 2 strips under the base. Scratch off the strip which says "Scratch and get a chance to win a Ford Expedition." DO NOT SCRATCH OFF THE SURFACE of the SECOND STRIP which says: "Do not scratch. Not valid if scratched." Any tampering of this strip will automatically disqualify the winner. Keep the model car with the plastic base in a safe area. Do not detach the model car from the plastic base.
How to Win? A raffle will be conducted on February 17, 2004 to draw the winning serial number. Raffle will be held during office hours at Diageo Phils., Inc.'s office under the supervision of a DOH-BFAD representative. The winning serial number will immediately be published in major broadsheets. There will only be one winner.
How to redeem the tax-free one-of-a-kind Ford Expedition? Winner is requested to call up Mr. Abel Dolare, Account and Events Director of Leo Activation, Leo Burnett Manila at telephone number, 8848001 loc 225 for the redemption schedule. Winner will shoulder all transportation expenses during the redemption process. Winner must bring the model car and the corresponding plastic base with the winning serial number with valid I.D.s with photos like: driver's license and/or passport. No proxies or representatives of the winner will be entertained. Not convertible to cash. 1st year of vehicle insurance to be shouldered by Diageo Phils., Inc. Prize not claimed within 60 days from the announcement of the winning serial number will be forfeited in favor of Diageo Phils., Inc., with prior approval from DOH-BFAD

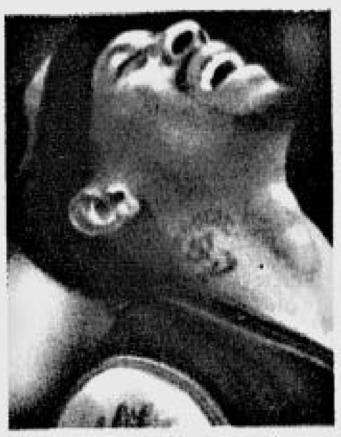
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 0909 series of 2003.

Drink Moderately. Don't Drink and Drive.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

IVERSON SHINES

76ers plaster Lakers


IVERSON: I lead by example.

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson played one of his best offensive games of the season Thursday, scoring 39 points to lead the struggling Philadelphia 76ers past the weary and depleted Los Angeles Lakers, 96-73.

In a game that stayed competitive for only a few minutes, Iverson had his way against defender Derek Fisher and repeatedly [illegible] himself for mid-range jumpers and drives. Iverson shot 15-for-29 from the field—missing his final four shots—and added six assists in one of the 76ers' most lopsided victories of the season.

"I tried to make sure I led by example," Iverson said. "I saw guys were trying to get things done the right way."

The Lakers, playing their fourth road game in five nights and extra tired after arriving in Philadelphia around 4 a.m. local time, lost Gary Payton to an ejection in a first quarter in which they scored just 10 points—matching their season low set earlier this week at Indiana.

Shaquille O'Neal missed 11 of 13 foul shots in the first half, finishing 3-for-15 from the line with 17 points.

"We just had dead legs tonight. It was just obvious we didn't have any zip out there at all," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "This is not a low point. They're not depressed about it. They just had a bad game."

The Lakers were supposed to be joined by Kobe Bryant, who is on the injured list with a lacerated finger. But Bryant defied coach Phil Jackson and did not show up, leaving the team wondering about his whereabouts until shortly before game time.

Bryant's agent told the Lakers that Bryant would join them in Orlando on the fifth stop of their seven-game road trip.

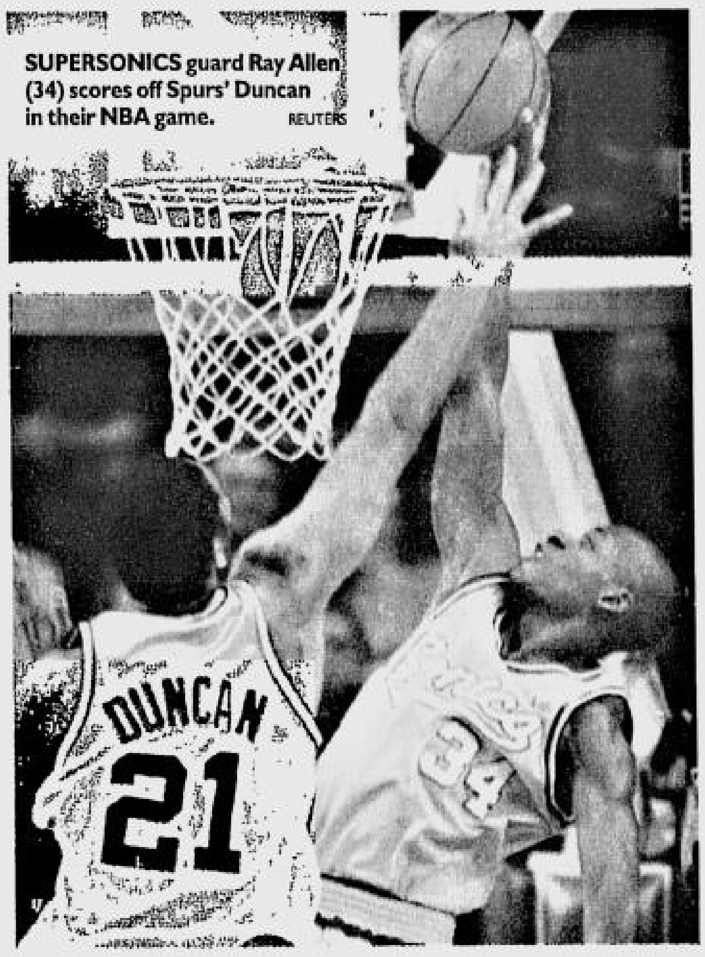
Glenn Robinson added 26 points for the 76ers.

In Seattle, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 18 points to lead San Antonio over Seattle.

The Spurs beat the Sonics for the fifth straight time, sending Seattle to its fifth loss in six games. San Antonio, making the second stop on a seven-game road trip, has won four in a row in Seattle.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 14 for the Spurs.

Rashard Lewis led Seattle with 25 points and nine rebounds, while Ray Allen scored 22. *AP*


SUPERSONICS guard Ray Allen (34) scores off Spurs' Duncan in their NBA game. REUTERS

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ GP | FOR GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
"A Disney Classic In The Tradition Of 'The Lion King'!"
Jimmy Carter, NBC-TV
Disney presents
BROTHER BEAR
disney.com/brotherbear
©Disney Enterprises, Inc.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Els pads Heineken lead to 7 shots

SYDNEY—South Africa's Ernie Els followed his first round 60 with a 6-under-par 66 on Friday to open up a seven-shot lead at the Heineken Classic at Royal Melbourne.

The defending champion was unable to match his spectacular performance on the opening day when he came within a whisker of golf's magical 59, yet still produced a bogey-free round to extend his lead.

"I played a little safer today. The course is showing some teeth today and I think the breeze is picking up, too," Els said.

"I felt that the flags were more difficult today." Playing the back nine first Els went out in 34, making birdies on the 10th and 15th holes. The world No. 3 picked up another four strokes on the way home, including birdies at each of the last three holes.

"I am looking forward to this weekend. I want to keep going," said Els, bidding to win the tournament for the third year running. "I want to keep doing what I am doing and maybe tomorrow try to get my irons closer to the flag." Australian left-hander Richard Green moved into second place on 11-under after firing a 67, one shot clear of Adam Scott and Peter Fowler who carded matching rounds of 68.

Scott played in the same group as Els and said the South African was playing as well as world No. 1 Tiger Woods.

ELS positions his ball on the 8th green. AFP

Green made 66 on Thursday and added seven birdies in the second round. He finished with a 67 after two bogeys on the back nine.

Peter O'Malley (69), and New Zealand's Gareth Paddison (68) and Mahal Pearce (70) were tied for fifth at nine under. *Reuters*

Yanks share top

PEBBLE BEACH, California—Americans Matt Kuchar and J.J. Henry carded 7-under-par 65s here Thursday to share the first-round lead in the $5.3-million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Kuchar played his round at Poppy Hills while Henry competed at Pebble Beach.

The four-day tournament is played over three courses—the other being Spyglass Hill—for the first three rounds with the final 18 holes contested at Pebble Beach.

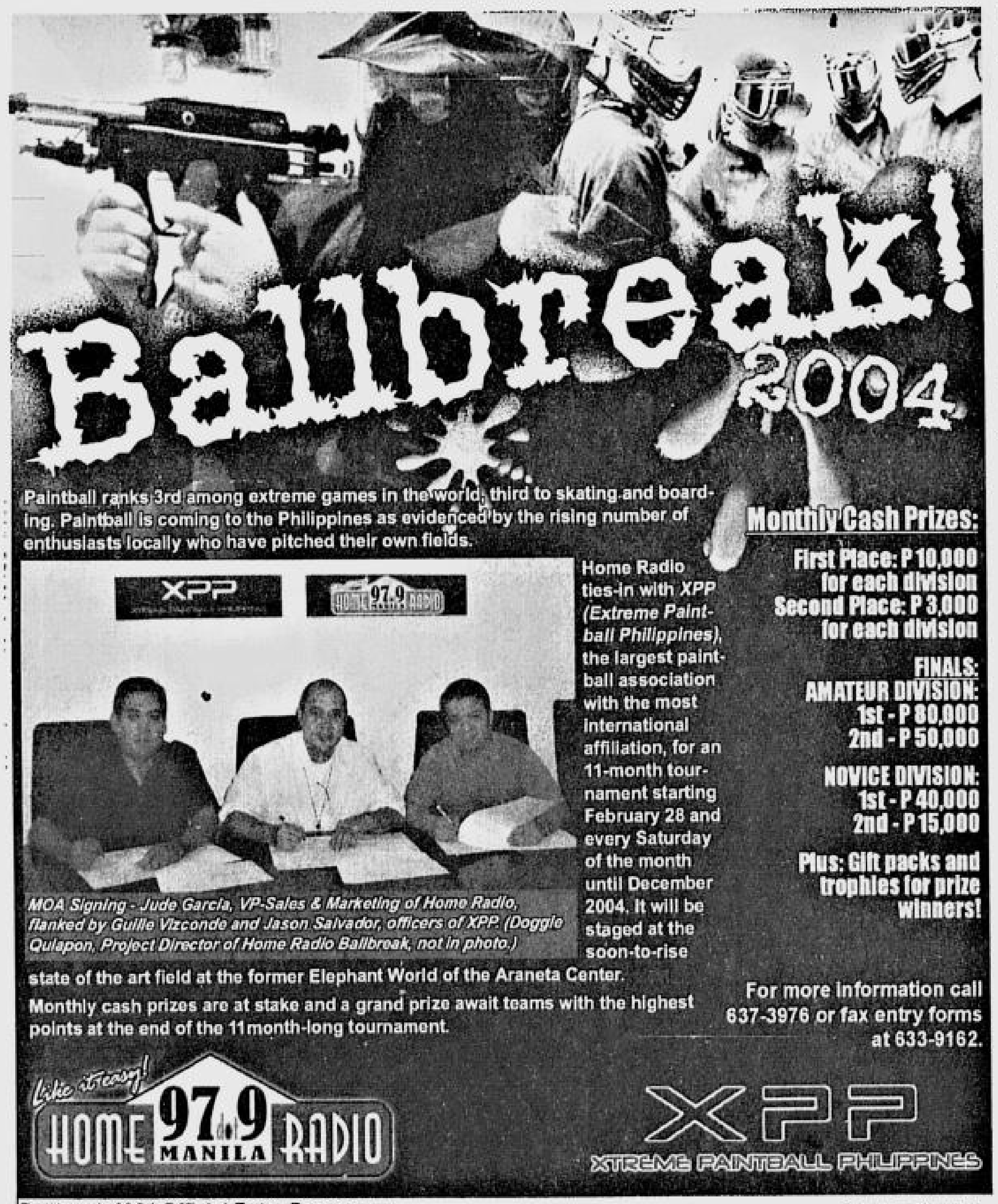
Kuchar, who endured a brutal 2003 campaign in which he finished 182nd on the money list, capped his round with three consecutive birdies.

Tommy Tolles was third after a 66 with Fiji's Vijay Singh heading a group of eight golfers at 67.

Singh is working on a string of 11 consecutive top-10 finishes, three shy of Jack Nicklaus' record set in 1977.

Top-10 finish records have been kept since 1970. Phil Mickelson and Craig Stadler were among seven players tied at four-under.

Defending champion Davis Love was 10 shots off the pace after firing a three-over 75 at Spyglass Hill. *AFP*


Ballbreak! 2004
Paintball ranks 3rd among extreme games in the world, third to skating and boarding. Paintball is coming to the Philippines as evidenced by the rising number of enthusiasts locally who have pitched their own fields.
XPP
HOME 97.9 RADIO
MOA Signing - Jude Garcia, VP-Sales & Marketing of Home Radio, flanked by Guille Vizconde and Jason Salvador, officers of XPP. (Doggie Quiapon, Project Director of Home Radio Ballbreak, not in photo.)
Home Radio ties-in with XPP (Extreme Paintball Philippines), the largest paintball association with the most international affiliation, for an 11-month tournament starting February 28 and every Saturday of the month until December 2004. It will be staged at the soon-to-rise state of the art field at the former Elephant World of the Araneta Center.
Monthly cash prizes are at stake and a grand prize await teams with the highest points at the end of the 11month-long tournament.
Monthly Cash Prizes:
First Place: P 10,000 for each division
Second Place: P 3,000 for each division
FINALS:
AMATEUR DIVISION:
1st - P 80,000
2nd - P 50,000
NOVICE DIVISION:
1st - P 40,000
2nd - P 15,000
Plus: Gift packs and trophies for prize winners!
For more information call 637-3976 or fax entry forms at 633-9162.
Like it easy! HOME 97.9 MANILA RADIO
XPP XTREME PAINTBALL PHILIPPINES
Ballbreak 2004 Official Entry Forms
Fax this form to 633-9162.
Team Name:
Team Captain:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Contact No.:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:

Hewitt tagged best Davis Cupper after 24th victory

ADELAIDE, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt was acclaimed as the best Davis Cup player in the world after winning his record-equaling 24th singles victory to put champion Australia level with Sweden in their World Group tennis tie here on Friday.

The 22-year-old Hewitt dismantled Swedish debutante Robin Soderling in straight sets to join Adrian Quist for a record-equaling most singles wins by an Australian in just five years of Cup competition.

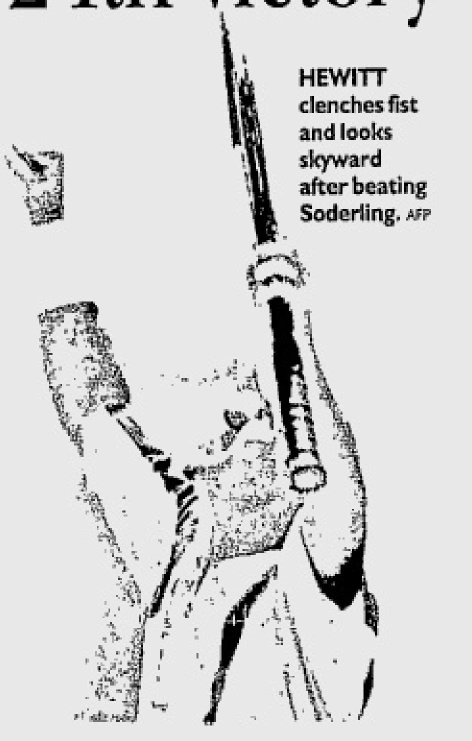
Hewitt came to his country's rescue yet again with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory over the 54th-ranked Soderling after Mark Philippoussis was snuffed out, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, by red-hot Thomas Enqvist in the opening rubber.

Saturday's doubles could prove pivotal to the outcome of the Adelaide tie with Todd Woodbridge partnering Wayne Arthurs against Swedish pair Jonas Bjorkman and Joachim Johansson.

Hewitt's singles record stands at 24-5 in his 17th Cup tie since his 1999 debut against American Todd Martin in Boston.

"He's a unique kid," praised Australian captain John Fitzgerald. "He's a really special Davis Cup player, the best in the world."

Enqvist played near-flawless tennis to destroy Philippoussis and give the outsiders a shock 1-0 lead.


HEWITT clenches fist and looks skyward after beating Soderling. AFP

In other early Davis Cup showdowns, India tied New Zealand, 1-1, and Thailand led Pakistan, 2-0, in Group I of the Asia-Oceania play. *AFP*

Unbeaten Suico raring to meet African rival

By Salven L. Lagumbay

CEBU CITY—Unbeaten Orient and Pacific Boxing Federation superfeatherweight champ Randy Suico can hardly wait to travel to South Africa to meet the final hurdle to his quest for the World Boxing Council 130-lb crown.

Stone-fisted Suico, the second-ranked WBC superbantam contender who demolished Korean challenger Seungwon Baek in two short rounds last week, will be back at the ALA Gym on Monday to start training for South African Mzonke Fana, the WBC No. 1 contender.

Suico and Fana are slated to face each other in a 12-round WBC eliminator sometime in April in South Africa, with the winner advancing to challenge the survivor of the Feb. 28 Jesus Chavez-Erik Morales clash.

Suico has a 21-0 record with 18 KO's, while the 30-year-old Fana, the WBC International titlist, owns a 20-2 win-loss record with 7 KO's.

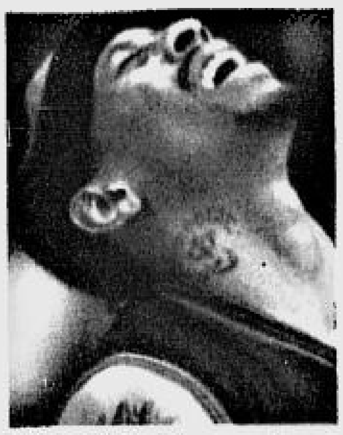
South African promoter Branco Milenkovic, head of the Johannesburg-based Branco Sports Productions, said he would soon come up with the final date of the Suico-Fana fight.

However, Milenkovic indicated that the April elections in South Africa might force him to move the fight to May.

"Suico vs Fana will be a very big event for South Africa as this marks the first time that a local boxer will be fighting for a WBC eliminator," Milenkovic said.

IVERSON SHINES

76ers plaster Lakers



IVERSON: I lead by example.

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson played one of his best offensive games of the season Thursday, scoring 39 points to lead the struggling Philadelphia 76ers past the weary and depleted Los Angeles Lakers, 96-73.

In a game that stayed competitive for only a few minutes, Iverson had his way against defender Derek Fisher and repeatedly [illegible] himself for mid-range jumpers and drives. Iverson shot 15-for-29 from the field—missing his final four shots—and added six assists in one of the 76ers' most lopsided victories of the season.

"I tried to make sure I led by example," Iverson said. "I saw guys were trying to get things done the right way."

The Lakers, playing their fourth road game in five nights and extra tired after arriving in Philadelphia around 4 a.m. local time, lost Gary Payton to an ejection in a first quarter in which they scored just 10 points—matching their season low set earlier this week at Indiana.

Shaquille O'Neal missed 11 of 13 foul shots in the first half, finishing 3-for-15 from the line with 17 points.

"We just had dead legs tonight. It was just obvious we didn't have any zip out there at all," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "This is not a low point. They're not depressed about it. They just had a bad game."

The Lakers were supposed to be joined by Kobe Bryant, who is on the injured list with a lacerated finger. But Bryant defied coach Phil Jackson and did not show up, leaving the team wondering about his whereabouts until shortly before game time.

Bryant's agent told the Lakers that Bryant would join them in Orlando on the fifth stop of their seven-game road trip.

Glenn Robinson added 26 points for the 76ers.

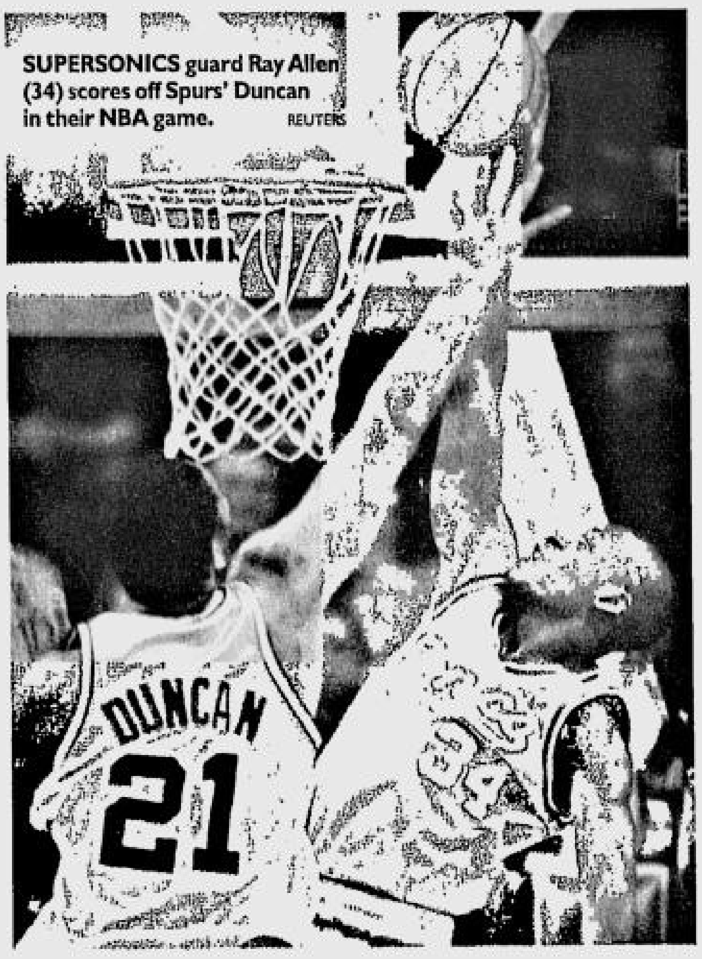
In Seattle, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 18 points to lead San Antonio over Seattle.

The Spurs beat the Sonics for the fifth straight time, sending Seattle to its fifth loss in six games. San Antonio, making the second stop on a seven-game road trip, has won four in a row in Seattle.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 14 for the Spurs.

Rashard Lewis led Seattle with 25 points and nine rebounds, while Ray Allen scored 22.

AP



SUPERSONICS guard Ray Allen (34) scores off Spurs' Duncan in their NBA game. REUTERS

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ GP | FOR GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
"A Disney Classic In The Tradition Of 'The Lion King'!"
Jimmy Carter, NBC-TV
Disney presents
BROTHER BEAR
disney.com/brotherbear
©Disney Enterprises, Inc.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Els pads Heineken lead to 7 shots

SYDNEY—South Africa's Ernie Els followed his first round 60 with a 6-under-par 66 on Friday to open up a seven-shot lead at the Heineken Classic at Royal Melbourne.

The defending champion was unable to match his spectacular performance on the opening day when he came within a whisker of golf's magical 59, yet still produced a bogey-free round to extend his lead.

"I played a little safer today. The course is showing some teeth today and I think the breeze is picking up, too," Els said.

"I felt that the flags were more difficult today." Playing the back nine first Els went out in 34, making birdies on the 10th and 15th holes. The world No. 3 picked up another four strokes on the way home, including birdies at each of the last three holes.

"I am looking forward to this weekend. I want to keep going," said Els, bidding to win the tournament for the third year running. "I want to keep doing what I am doing and maybe tomorrow try to get my irons closer to the flag." Australian left-hander Richard Green moved into second place on 11-under after firing a 67, one shot clear of Adam Scott and Peter Fowler who carded matching rounds of 68.

Scott played in the same group as Els and said the South African was playing as well as world No. 1 Tiger Woods.

ELS positions his ball on the 8th green. AFP

Green made 66 on Thursday and added seven birdies in the second round. He finished with a 67 after two bogeys on the back nine.

Peter O'Malley (69), and New Zealand's Gareth Paddison (68) and Mahal Pearce (70) were tied for fifth at nine under.

Reuters

Yanks share top

PEBBLE BEACH, California—Americans Matt Kuchar and J.J. Henry carded 7-under-par 65s here Thursday to share the first-round lead in the $5.3-million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Kuchar played his round at Poppy Hills while Henry competed at Pebble Beach.

The four-day tournament is played over three courses—the other being Spyglass Hill—for the first three rounds with the final 18 holes contested at Pebble Beach.

Kuchar, who endured a brutal 2003 campaign in which he finished 182nd on the money list, capped his round with three consecutive birdies.

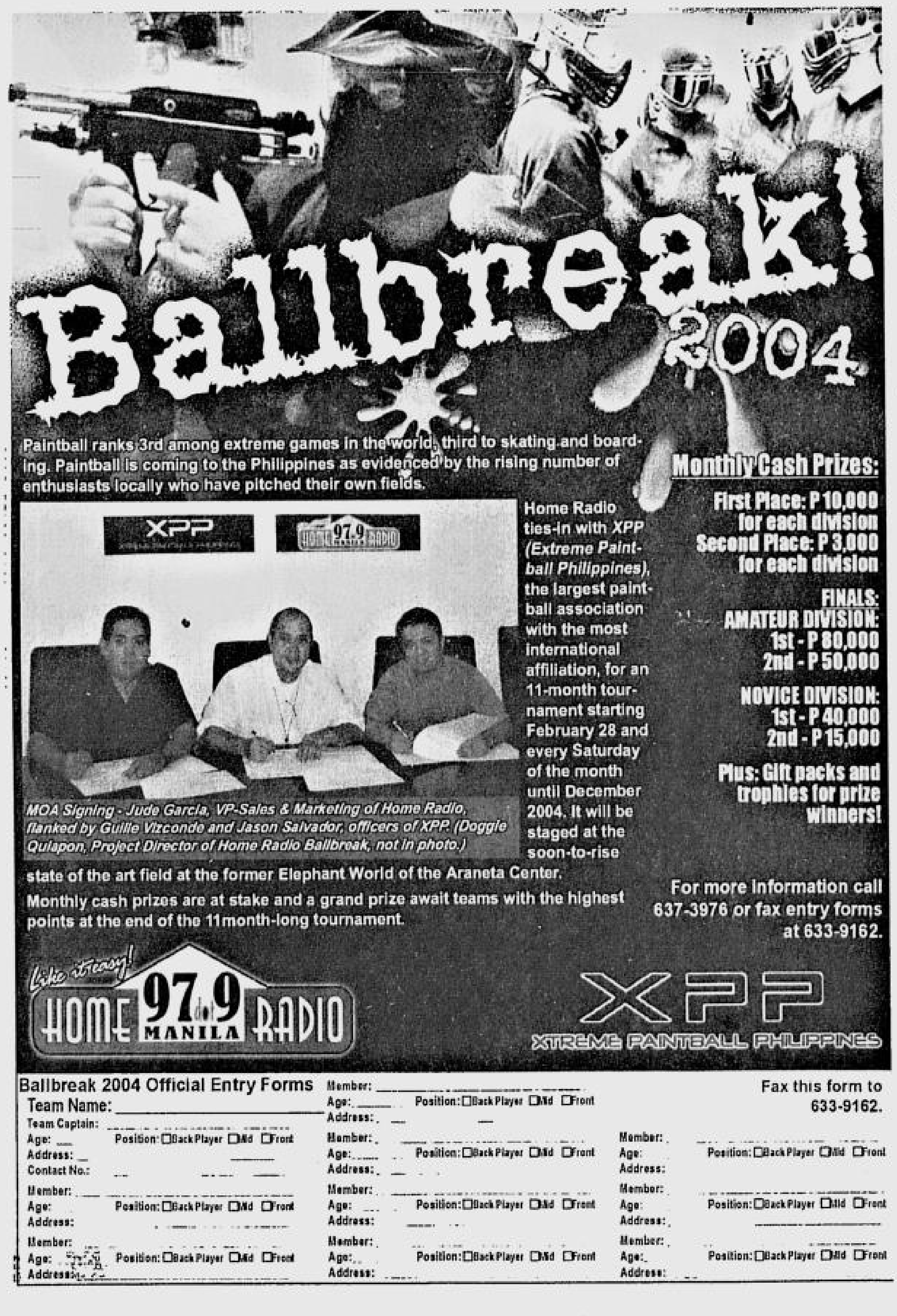
Tommy Tolles was third after a 66 with Fiji's Vijay Singh heading a group of eight golfers at 67.

Singh is working on a string of 11 consecutive top-10 finishes, three shy of Jack Nicklaus' record set in 1977.

Top-10 finish records have been kept since 1970. Phil Mickelson and Craig Stadler were among seven players tied at four-under.

Defending champion Davis Love was 10 shots off the pace after firing a three-over 75 at Spyglass Hill.

AFP



Ballbreak! 2004

Paintball ranks 3rd among extreme games in the world, third to skating and boarding. Paintball is coming to the Philippines as evidenced by the rising number of enthusiasts locally who have pitched their own fields.

XPP | HOME 97.9 RADIO

MOA Signing - Jude Garcia, VP-Sales & Marketing of Home Radio, flanked by Guille Vizconde and Jason Salvador, officers of XPP. (Doggie Quiapon, Project Director of Home Radio Ballbreak, not in photo.)

Home Radio ties-in with XPP (Extreme Paintball Philippines), the largest paintball association with the most international affiliation, for an 11-month tournament starting February 28 and every Saturday of the month until December 2004. It will be staged at the soon-to-rise state of the art field at the former Elephant World of the Araneta Center.

Monthly cash prizes are at stake and a grand prize await teams with the highest points at the end of the 11month-long tournament.

Monthly Cash Prizes:
First Place: P 10,000 for each division
Second Place: P 3,000 for each division
FINALS:
AMATEUR DIVISION:
1st - P 80,000
2nd - P 50,000
NOVICE DIVISION:
1st - P 40,000
2nd - P 15,000
Plus: Gift packs and trophies for prize winners!

For more information call 637-3976 or fax entry forms at 633-9162.

Like it easy! HOME 97.9 MANILA RADIO
XPP XTREME PAINTBALL PHILIPPINES

Ballbreak 2004 Official Entry Forms
Fax this form to 633-9162.
Team Name:
Team Captain:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Contact No.:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:
Member:
Age: Position: ☐Back Player ☐Mid ☐Front
Address:

Hewitt tagged best Davis Cupper after 24th victory

ADELAIDE, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt was acclaimed as the best Davis Cup player in the world after winning his record-equaling 24th singles victory to put champion Australia level with Sweden in their World Group tennis tie here on Friday.

The 22-year-old Hewitt dismantled Swedish debutante Robin Soderling in straight sets to join Adrian Quist for a record-equaling most singles wins by an Australian in just five years of Cup competition.

Hewitt came to his country's rescue yet again with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory over the 54th-ranked Soderling after Mark Philippoussis was snuffed out, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, by red-hot Thomas Enqvist in the opening rubber.

Saturday's doubles could prove pivotal to the outcome of the Adelaide tie with Todd Woodbridge partnering Wayne Arthurs against Swedish pair Jonas Bjorkman and Joachim Johansson.

Hewitt's singles record stands at 24-5 in his 17th Cup tie since his 1999 debut against American Todd Martin in Boston.

"He's a unique kid," praised Australian captain John Fitzgerald. "He's a really special Davis Cup player, the best in the world."

Enqvist played near-flawless tennis to destroy Philippoussis and give the outsiders a shock 1-0 lead.

HEWITT clenches fist and looks skyward after beating Soderling. AFP

In other early Davis Cup showdowns, India tied New Zealand, 1-1, and Thailand led Pakistan, 2-0, in Group I of the Asia-Oceania play.

AFP

Unbeaten Suico raring to meet African rival

By Salven L. Lagumbay

CEBU CITY—Unbeaten Orient and Pacific Boxing Federation superfeatherweight champ Randy Suico can hardly wait to travel to South Africa to meet the final hurdle to his quest for the World Boxing Council 130-lb crown.

Stone-fisted Suico, the second-ranked WBC superbantam contender who demolished Korean challenger Seungwon Baek in two short rounds last week, will be back at the ALA Gym on Monday to start training for South African Mzonke Fana, the WBC No. 1 contender.

Suico and Fana are slated to face each other in a 12-round WBC eliminator sometime in April in South Africa, with the winner advancing to challenge the survivor of the Feb. 28 Jesus Chavez-Erik Morales clash.

Suico has a 21-0 record with 18 KO's, while the 30-year-old Fana, the WBC International titlist, owns a 20-2 win-loss record with 7 KO's.

South African promoter Branco Milenkovic, head of the Johannesburg-based Branco Sports Productions, said he would soon come up with the final date of the Suico-Fana fight.

However, Milenkovic indicated that the April elections in South Africa might force him to move the fight to May.

"Suico vs Fana will be a very big event for South Africa as this marks the first time that a local boxer will be fighting for a WBC eliminator," Milenkovic said.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Wong-Tolentino clinches Shaw overall crown

THE WONGS stood out in the 15th edition of the Bill Shaw Memorial golf tournament recently with Francisco Wong teaming up with Norberto Tolentino to clinch the overall crown at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Wong and his guest partner Tolentino conspired for a 12-under-par 60 in the scramble play at the West course and then tallied a 10-under 134 in the aggregate play at the East for a two-day total of 194 in the 36-hole tourney presented by Samsung Electronics.

Another Wong, Damas, who was playing as a guest, grabbed a share of the major plum when he partnered with Gary Go in defending the low gross award. They tallied 67 and 164, respectively, for a 221 total.

Elphege Wong, meanwhile, missed making it a triple victory for his family name when he and Severino Liao settled for second place in Group I. Their 198 (60-138) total was three behind the winning pair of Ruben Reyes and Dante Tejada, who had 195 (61-134).

Winning Group II were Wilson Buen and Jerry Uy who edged out the Wilbert Tan-Manny Mendoza duo. Both teams wound up tied at 197, but Buen and Uy prevailed in the countback due to a lower team handicap.

Benedicto Siy and Pepito Gavino joined hands to emerge as Group III champion, winning over Chan and Paul Chang (199-200).

Topping the guest division were Francis Go and Jake Ong with a 200 (64-136) total, two strokes better than the 202 output of Roland Kapunan and Enrique Longa.

Nobody won the two Rav-4's and Mitsubishi Lancer GLS Automatic staked for holes-in-one at the East's No. 8, West's No. 3 and West's No. 11.

Tournament sponsors of the event were the Bill Shaw Foundation, San Miguel Corp., the First Gentleman's Foundation, Korean Airlines and Unilever Philippines as major backers.

Hole sponsors were Forest Hills, Roche, lawyer Gilberto "Bibit" Duavit, Alternative Beverage, Chinatrust, Cinnabon, Coppertone, Discovery Suites, Equitable PCI-Bank, Excelsior, GE Management, GG&A Clubshares, Greenhills Shopping Center, Kubota, Market Place, Pascual Laboratories, Pacsports, Trets Phils., San Miguel, Titleist, Zest-O, Pink Patio Boracay Resort, Red Ribbon, Oriental Assurance Inc. and Red Bull.

Billiards talents search March 8

A NEW search for promising billiards talents will be launched on March 8, Monday, at Rommel's Billiards Biak-Na-Bato in Retiro Avenue.

Aspiring cue artists—young and old, male or female—can join the event backed by sports patron Sebastian Chua. They will be battling each other in a race-to-5, winner-take-all format with the top 16 qualifying into the next round.

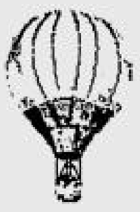
The top 16 will be facing each other anew at the Star Paper Corporation compound and will also be qualified to join the Tanduay Search for the No. 1 Player and the Corporate Billiards League which will unfold its second season this March.

Interested parties may inquire with the Corporate Billiards League secretariat at 09189219934 or may log on at the www.corporatebilliardsleague@yahoo.com.

Meanwhile, defending champion Johnson Vita tackles his biggest threat so far—SEA Games veteran Butch Suarez as the new and more exciting "Search for Tanduay No. 1 Billiards Player" continues at the Robinson's Galleria.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▸ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS
Based on the bestselling novel by SUSANNA MOORE
"An erotic thriller capable of inducing nightmares and guaranteed to shock even hard boiled audiences."
-The Miami Herald
A serial killer who cannot be caught.
A woman who knows too much.
A detective who hides a secret.
MEG RYAN MARK RUFFALO
KEVIN BACON
JENNIFER JASON LEIGH
IN THE CUT
A film by Jane Campion
MAGIC 89.9

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
4 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR KEN WATANABE
ART DIRECTION • COSTUME DESIGN • SOUND
3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST ACTOR • TOM CRUISE
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD® NOMINEE
KEN WATANABE BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
WINNER
BEST DIRECTOR
EDWARD ZWICK
-NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
TOM CRUISE
THE LAST SAMURAI
NOW SHOWING


Get your career off the ground.
JOB MARKET
Now on-line at www.jobmarketonline.com

OPENS FEBRUARY 11!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MANDY MOORE
MATTHEW GOODE
How do you fall in love with the whole world watching?
CHASING★LIBERTY
AOL Keyword: Chasing Liberty
www.chasingliberty.com

ADVANCE SCREENING
CHASING★LIBERTY
at
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 6
FEBRUARY 9
(Monday) 7:30 PM
this JAM 88.3 Screening is STRICTLY invitational
MOVIEWORLD
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Opens on FEBRUARY 11

Instituto Cervantes Warning
Love is Dangerous to your Health!
6 Spanish Love Stories
Juana La Loca . You're The One
Son De Mar . Sin Vergüenza
El Perro Del Hortelano
La Buena Estrella
February 9-15, 2004
Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1
ArtFilm
For inquiries, call 752 7865

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SKY OF LOVE
Ali 2	LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
Ali 3	MONA LISA SMILE
Ali 4	IN THE CUT
Ali 5	LAST SAMURAI
Ali 6	KILL BILL
Ali 7	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

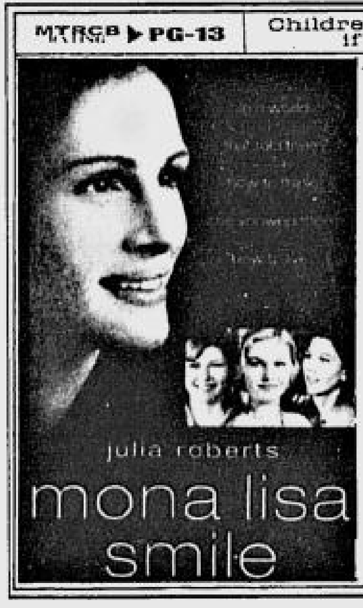
NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB 13	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 14	JOHN FORD COLEY CONCERT
FEB 15	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 22	PBA FIESTA CUP OPENING
FEB 25	PBA GAMES

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 IN THE CUT 12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40 R18
CINEMA 2 MONALISA SMILE 11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224405
MUSIC MUSEUM
FEB. 11 "Game of Love" (Paolo Santos & Bituin Escalante) 9:00PM
FEB. 12 & 13 "VOTE 1 TAKE ALL" (Willie Nep 4 President) 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

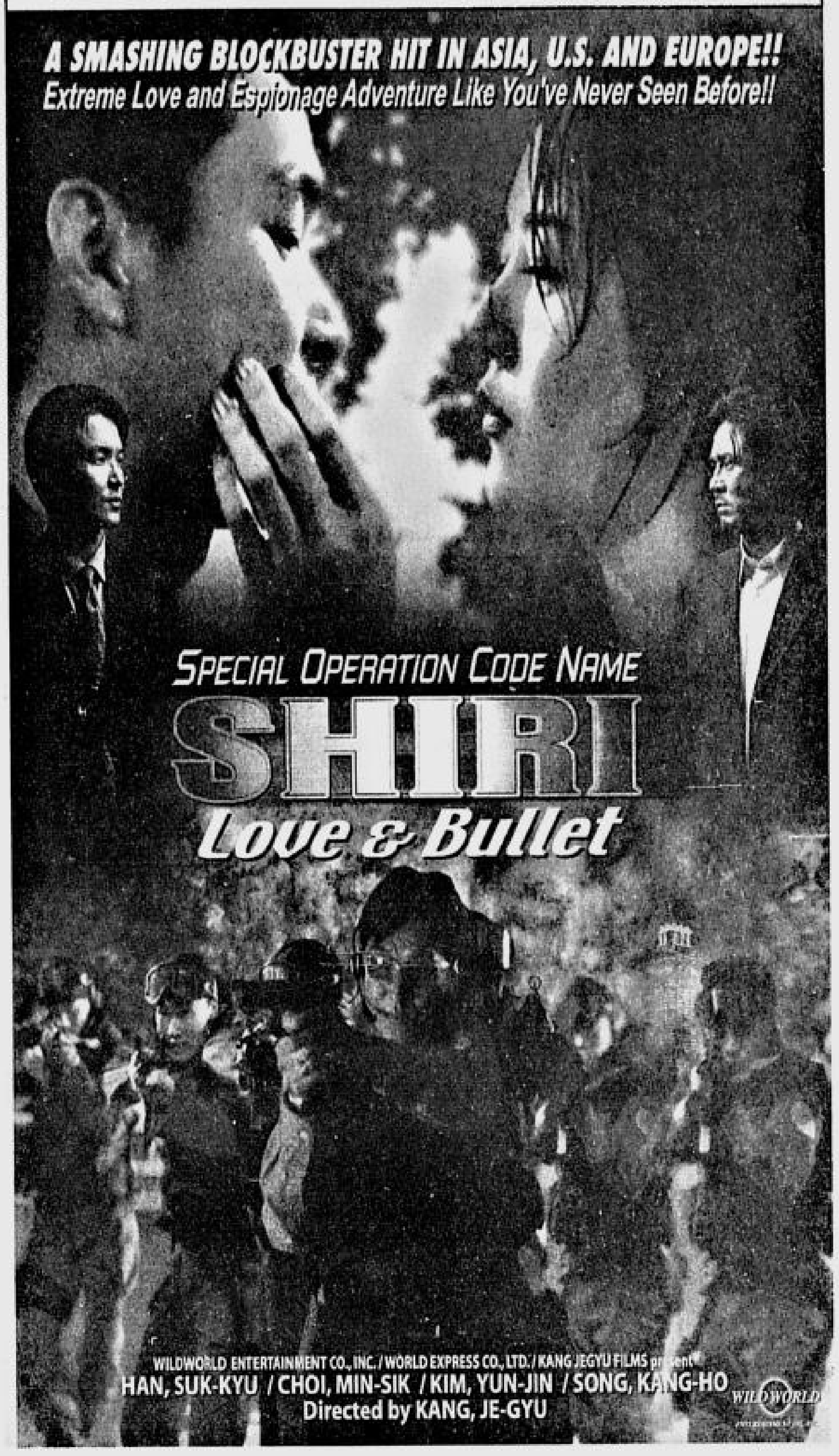

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
julia roberts
mona lisa smile
Julia Roberts dazzles in 'Mona Lisa Smile'
Ladies, give yourselves a special treat, and bring your sisters, classmates, girlfriends, Mom, or even a date, to see Julia's new movie.
Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts heads a powerhouse cast with today's hot young Hollywood actresses - Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*) and Julia Stiles (*Save the Last Dance, 10 Things I Hate About You*) - in an uplifting, heart-wrenching, and often-times funny drama.
Julia Roberts stars as Katherine, a teacher who challenges her bright female students, and discovers herself along the way.
Mike Newell, director of romantic comedy *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, megs a must-see movie to capture your heart and put a smile on your face.
Warming hearts at a theatre near you
NOW SHOWING

Walt Disney
JAMIE LEE CURTIS LINDSAY LOHAN
FREAKY FRIDAY
Every teenager's nightmare... turning into her mother.
Own It On ORIGINAL Video and Disney DVD!
AVAILABLE AT THE FF. OUTLETS: ASTROVISION • VIDEO CITY • ASTROPLUS • SM RECORD BAR • ODYSSEY • NATIONAL BOOKSTORE • TOWER • LANDMARK • O MUSIC • MUSIC ONE • ASIATEC SHOPWISE • EVER DEPARTMENT STORE • SM APPLIANCE CENTER • SM SUPERMARKET • MAKRO • AMERICAN HOME VIDEO • SPECTRA • 7-ELEVEN • VVI SHANGRI-LA KIOSK and other VIVA VIDEO OUTLETS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

NOW SHOWING



A SMASHING BLOCKBUSTER HIT IN ASIA, U.S. AND EUROPE!!
Extreme Love and Espionage Adventure Like You've Never Seen Before!!

SPECIAL OPERATION CODE NAME
SHIRI
Love & Bullet

WILDWORLD ENTERTAINMENT CO., INC. / WORLD EXPRESS CO., LTD. / KANG JEGYU FILMS present
HAN, SUK-KYU / CHOI, MIN-SIK / KIM, YUN-JIN / SONG, KANG-HO
Directed by KANG, JE-GYU

BROTHER BEAR

NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: GP

Family Day

AYALA CINEMAS

Ayala Cinemas and Timezone is giving you more!

Visit us at the Alabang Town Center cinema lobby on Feb 7 & 8 and enjoy FREE FACE-PAINTING & BALLOON-TWISTING from 3 - 6 pm

Just present your Brother Bear movie ticket or a P200 new load / re-load Timezone powercard.

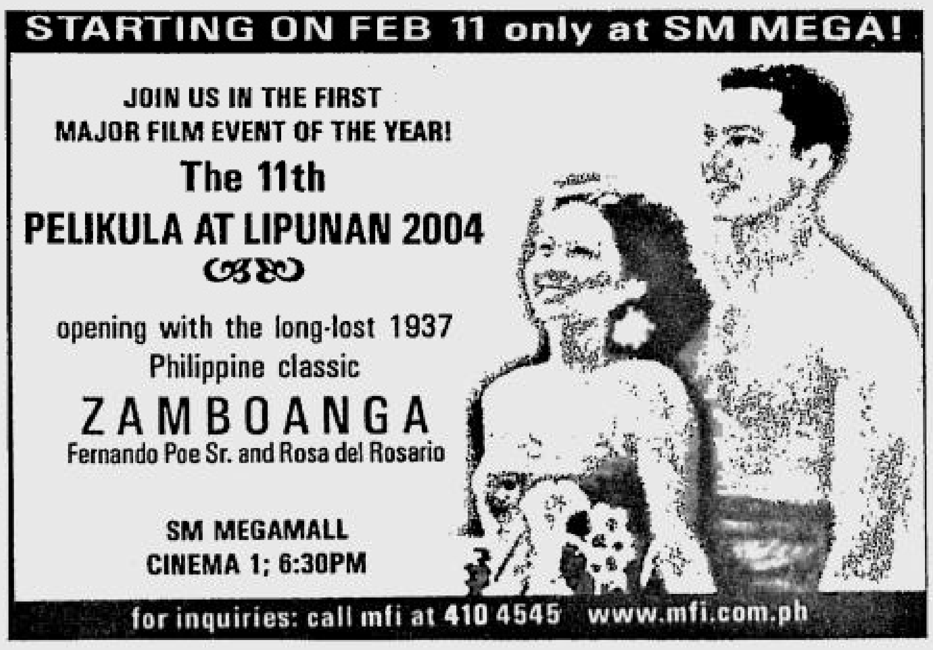
XV

AYALA CINEMAS
Opens Feb 11
at all Ayala Cinemas
A Film by Olivia M. Lamasan

MILAN

CLAUDINE BARRETTO PIOLO PASCUAL
GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

AYALA CENTER
Ayala Cinemas. Beyond Movies.



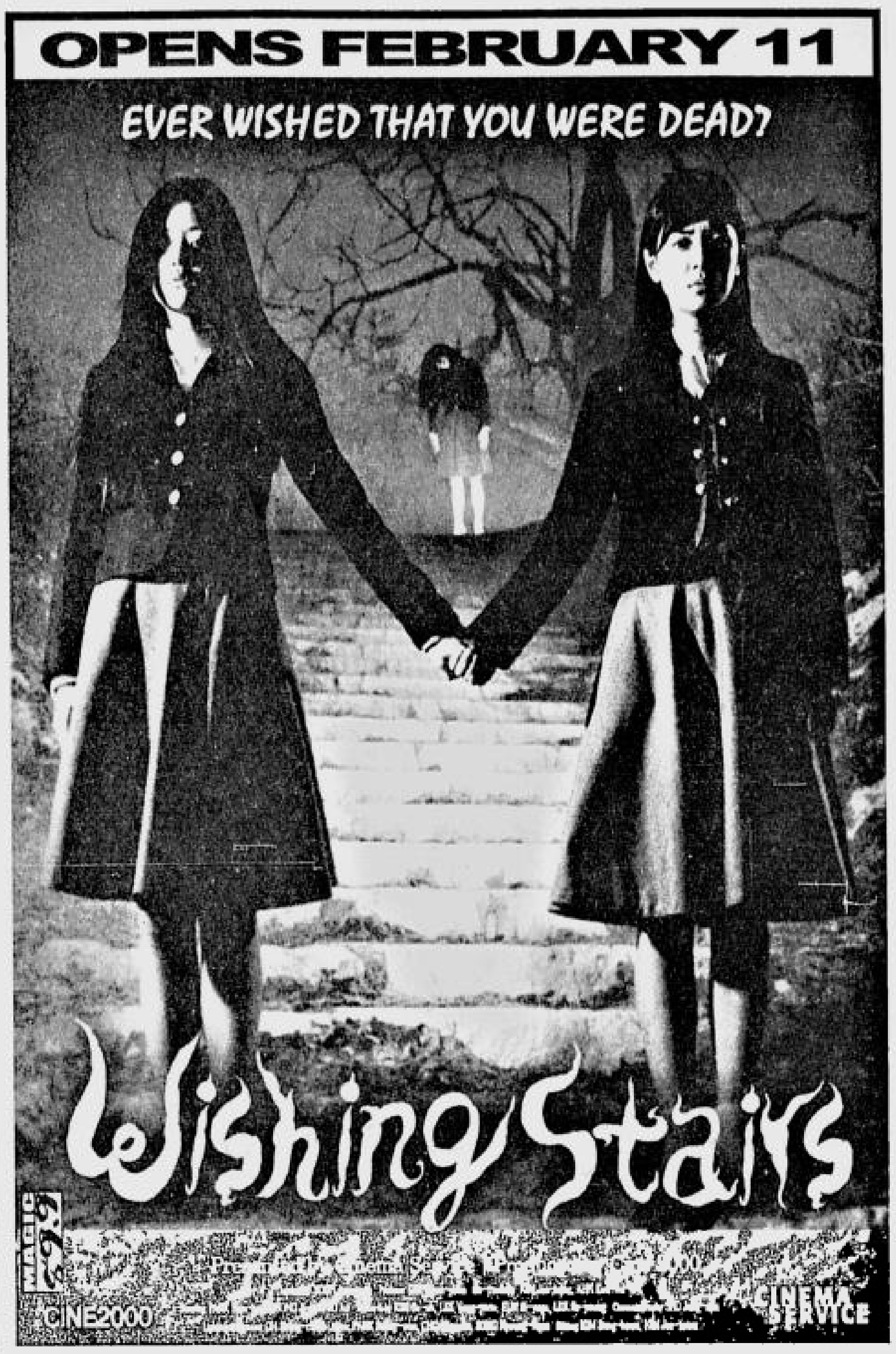
STARTING ON FEB 11 only at SM MEGA!

JOIN US IN THE FIRST
MAJOR FILM EVENT OF THE YEAR!
The 11th
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2004

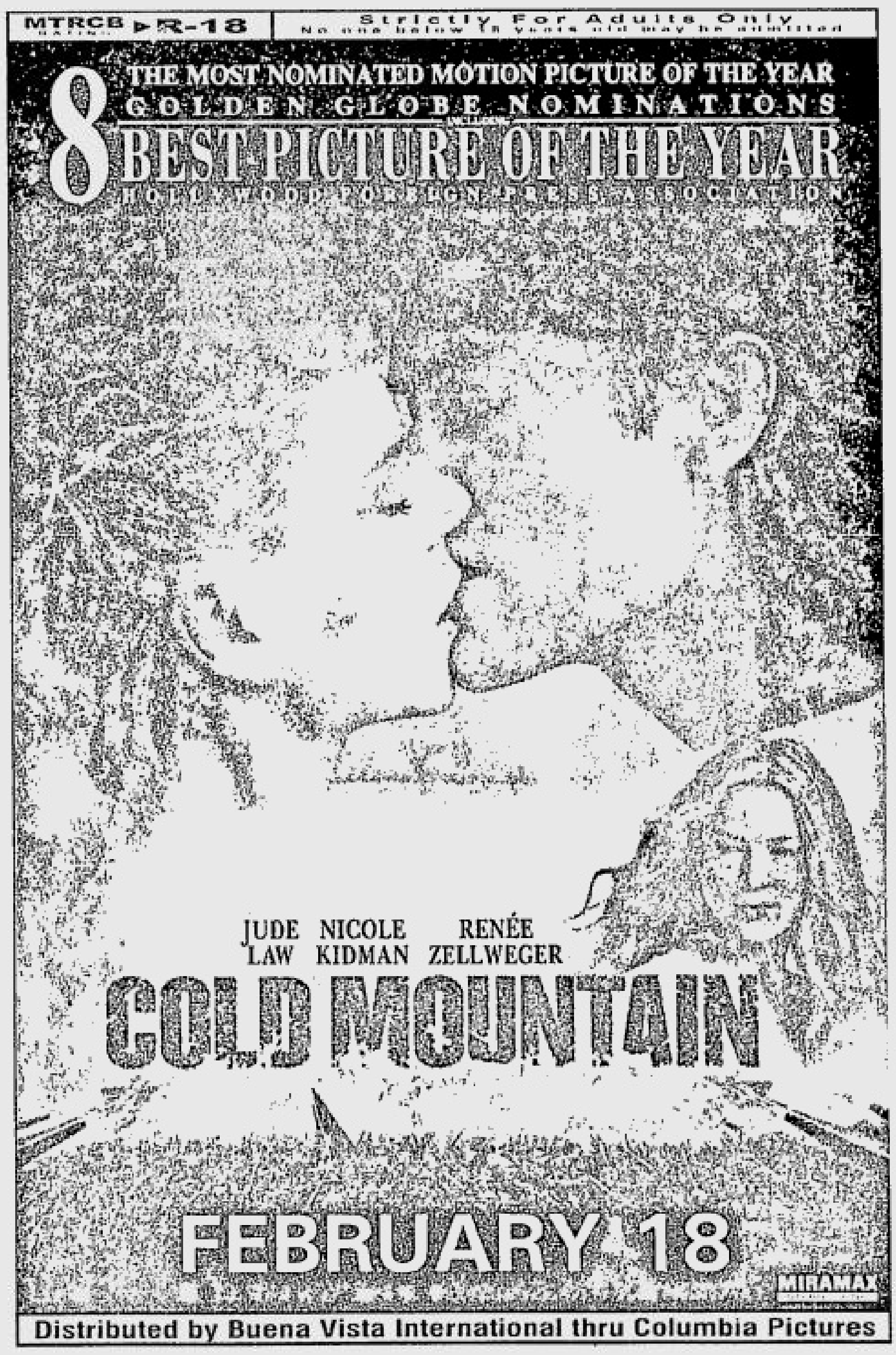
opening with the long-lost 1937
Philippine classic
ZAMBOANGA
Fernando Poe Sr. and Rosa del Rosario

SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 1; 6:30PM

for inquiries: call mfi at 410 4545 www.mfi.com.ph



OPENS FEBRUARY 11
EVER WISHED THAT YOU WERE DEAD?
Wishing Stairs
MAGIC 89.9
CINE2000
CINEMA SERVICE



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly For Adults Only
No one below 18 years old may be admitted

THE MOST NOMINATED MOTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR
8 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
HOLLYWOOD FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION

JUDE LAW NICOLE KIDMAN RENÉE ZELLWEGER
COLD MOUNTAIN
FEBRUARY 18
MIRAMAX
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ADVANCE SCREENING
at
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
GALLERIA Cinema 2
FEBRUARY 9
7:30 PM
This RX 93.1 Screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL
MTRCB RATING: G
MOVIEWORLD

EDDIE MURPHY
CHECK YOUR PULSE AT THE DOOR.
The Haunted Mansion
OPENS FEBRUARY 11
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Champ Lennox retiring

LONDON—World heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is set to announce his retirement on Friday at a news conference scheduled for a London hotel.

The 38-year-old Briton will be only the third heavyweight after Americans Gene Tunney and Rocky Marciano to retire while still the world champion.

Lewis has lost only two of 44 fights in a 14-year professional career after he won the 1988 Seoul Olympic super-heavyweight gold medal for Canada. Born in east London, he moved to Canada with his mother at the age of nine.

After signing with a British promoter, Lewis became the WBC champion by default in 1992 when American Riddick Bowe threw the belt into a dustbin. He lost the title two years later to Olivier McCall in the second round of their fight at Wembley.

In 1999 he became the undisputed champion with a unanimous points win over Evander Holyfield, then confirmed he was the best heavyweight of his era by stopping Mike Tyson in the eighth round of a one-sided fight in Memphis in June 2002. *Reuters*

20 Iraqis to Athens Olympics

BAGHDAD—Iraq is planning to send up to 20 athletes to the Athens Olympics with funding to the tune of $10 million provided by coalition forces.

"We're hoping to send between 15 and 20 competitors but that depends on qualifying in May and June," a member of Iraq's Olympic Committee said Thursday.

He warned that no one should expect heroics from the team in their first appearance at the Games since Barcelona in 1992.

"Above all, we want to show people that there is an Iraqi flag and that Iraq is on her way back," he added.

Iraq's squad for Athens will compete in wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, taekwondo, athletics, shooting and boxing.

Iraq boasts just one Olympic medal, the bronze won by weightlifter Abdul Wahid-Aziz in Rome in 1960.

In January the Iraq Olympic Committee elected a new president, Ahmad al-Hejjiya al-Samarrai, who succeeded Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, slain by American troops last July.

After Uday took over as Iraq's Olympic chief in 1986 athletes were tortured if they failed to meet his expectations.

The Iraq National Olympic Committee was suspended on May 17 last year in the wake of the 2003 invasion by American and British forces.

But the IOC is due to decide whether to lift the suspension. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

French wrests skating diadem

BUDAPEST—Teenager Brian Joubert dethroned world and defending champion Yevgeny Plushenko to lift his first major title at the European figure skating championships here on Thursday and become the first Frenchman to hold the crown in 40 years.

Plushenko, the three-time European and two-time world champion, fell twice during his routine at the Budapest Sports Arena and had to settle for silver with the bronze going to his fellow Russian Ilia Klimkin.

"I have a lot of titles now. Brian Joubert needs this title more than me," said 21-year-old Plushenko, the Olympic silver medalist, after Joubert, runner-up last year, became the first Frenchman to hold the individual title since Alain Calmat took gold at home in Grenoble in 1964.

Calmat, who had won his first European title the previous year in Budapest, was back in the Hungarian capital again to support his 19-year-old countryman who succeeded in ending a Russian winning streak in the men's event which goes back to 1997. *AFP*

Emelie tennis begins

VETERAN netters will clash with age groupers when the 2004 Hotel Emelie All-Women's Tennis Open kicks off at 11 a.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

A cash pot of P50,000 is up for grabs. The women's executive doubles start at 4 p.m.

Favorites Tracy Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo, who both drew opening day byes, strut their singles stuff tomorrow at center court.

Espinola prevails

NATIONAL player Ricky Espinola beat Anton Gonzalez, 9-3, 10-8, 9-2, to gain the quarterfinals of the Milo/SRAP National Squash Circuit's first leg at the Manila Polo Club courts.

Another national, Roan Banquilay, also triumphed in the tourney organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo with Dunlop as official ball. Banquilay beat Randy Precilla, 3-9, 9-2, 10-8, 10-6.

Other results:

Open—Gil Coscolluela d Ed Aguilando, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6; Ronald Espinola d Jun Paganpan, 2-9, 7-9, 9-6, 9-0, 9-5; Frankie Pelino d Rico Gomez, 9-6, 2-9, 8-10, 9-6, 9-2; and Robert Garcia d Allan Relano, 9-3, 9-5, 9-3.

Class C—Junnie Bagadiong d Paolo Rodriguez, 9-7, 9-2, 9-4; Frederick Nicolon d Ivan Villasoto, 9-1, 9-0, 4-2 (ret.); Sue Ward d Richard Espinola, 9-6, 9-5, 9-2, 9-6; and Kerie Gibbs d Ron Garcia, 9-4, 9-1, 6-9, 9-5.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 king of masks
2 SHIRI
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 HAUNTED OFFICE
7 LOST ISLAND
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
2 OTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 SHIRI
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 BROTHER BEAR
7 MONA LISA SMILE
8 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 1592684
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 THE GATHERING
3 SUSPECT
4 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 SHIRI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI

SM BICUTAN
7763055
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 SHIRI

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 SHIRI
4 BROTHER BEAR

SM STA. MESA
7140522 • 7161416
1 IN THE CUT
2 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 LAST SAMURAI
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
7 BROTHER BEAR
8 SHIRI
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 OTR: RETURN OF THE KING

SM SOUTHMALL
8066889
1 SHIRI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 STUCK ON YOU
10 IN THE CUT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 BROTHER BEAR
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 TWINS EFFECT
11 PURI
12 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 SHIRI
3 THE GATHERING
4 TWINS EFFECT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 PURI
2 RESERVED
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 TWINS EFFECT
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 SHIRI
7 RESERVED
8 SKY OF LOVE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901
1 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6368800
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 TWINS EFFECT
9 IN THE CUT
10 SKY OF LOVE
11 STUCK ON YOU
12 DIABLO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 SHIRI
4 BROTHER BEAR

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 SHIRI
8 TWINS EFFECT
9 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
10 HAUNTED OFFICE
11 STUCK ON YOU
12 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM CITY DAVAO
2976938
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 SKY OF LOVE
4 LOST ISLAND
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 PURI
5 DIABLO
6 MONA LISA SMILE

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1 SHIRI
2 TWINS EFFECT
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 CABIN FEVER

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1 MONA LISA SMILE
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:15/4:50/7:25/9:25
LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00
END

2 IN THE CUT
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:15/4:50/7:25/9:25
LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00
END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA
what to watch
Action

"Spectacular action and impassioned drama! Shiri piles one breathless sequence on top of another." - Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

A female North Korean sniper named Hee, has led agents Ryu (Han Suk-Gyu) and Lee (Song Kang-Ho) through a nightmare of burnt corpses and bloody crime scenes for ten years before suddenly vanishing. One year later she resurfaces, and with her comes a squad of North Korean commandos who have infiltrated Seoul and master-minded the theft of an experimental explosive.

NOW SHOWING

SHIRI
MTRCB Rating : P13

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593
CINEMA 1 THX MONA LISA SMILE 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
3 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 IN THE CUT 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
5 MONA LISA SMILE 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
6 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:20, 2:05, 5:55, 9:45
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
8 STUCK ON YOU 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
9 BROTHER BEAR 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
10 KILL BILL 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P75 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
1 MONA LISA SMILE 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
2 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 BROTHER BEAR 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50
5 STUCK ON YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 IN THE CUT 11:15, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:05, 10:00
7 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

Big R Supercenter **METRO EAST** 682-8193/99 / 682-8280
1 THE LAST SAMURAI 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 9:00
2 IN THE CUT 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05
3 MONA LISA SMILE 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05
4 STUCK ON YOU 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
5 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:30, 12:50, 4:50, 9:00
7 BROTHER BEAR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
8 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

Big R Supercenter **NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW** 935-3229 / 31
1 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:80
2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00
4 STUCK ON YOU 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00
5 BROTHER BEAR 11:20, 1:05, 2:50, 4:35, 6:20, 8:10
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30
7 IN THE CUT 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30
8 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:35, 12:40, 4:05, 7:45

Citisquare **MALABON** 288-0985/2575
1 MAPUSOK
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 MONA LISA SMILE

big Supercenter **CAINTA** 240-4661
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter **STA. ROSA** Laguna (049)837-0907
1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 THE TWINS EFFECT
3 PURI
4 DIABLO
5 THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter **LIPA** 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE LAST SAMURAI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 BROTHER BEAR
5 PURI

Big R Supercenter **DASMARIÑAS** 852-2125
1 PURI
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 BROTHER BEAR

Big R Supercenter **STARMILLS** San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 PURI
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 DIABLO
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 THE LAST SAMURAI

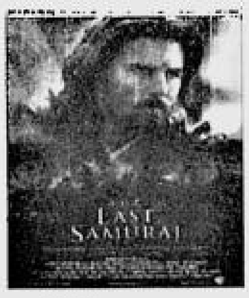
IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 DIABLO
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 MYSTIC RIVER
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 BRIDAL SHOWER
4 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RE-
5 TURN OF THE KING
6 KILL BILL

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
2 SKY OF LOVE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 KILL BILL
5 PURI
6 THE TWINS EFFECT

STUCK ON YOU

mona lisa smile



NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

ADVANCE SCREENING
* HAUNTED MANSION*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 2
* CHASING LIBERTY*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 6
February 9, 2004 (Monday) 7:30 PM
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	ArtFilm 1 THE CALENDAR GIRLS 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE LAST SAMURAI 2:00 5:10 8:20 11:30	THX 1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 MONA LISA SMILE	2 STUCK ON YOU	2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 MONA LISA SMILE 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:30	2 BROTHER BEAR
3 IN THE CUT	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE LAST SAMURAI 1:00 4:10 7:20 10:30	REPERTORY'S FAME Feb. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BROTHER BEAR 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE LAST SAMURAI	4 A TALE OF 2 SISTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 STUCK ON YOU 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 IN THE CUT
	5 BROTHER BEAR		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:20 3:50 [illegible]	5 THE LAST SAMURAI
	6 MONA LISA SMILE			
	7 IN THE CUT			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) BROTHER BEAR
2 (SDDS) LOTR; RETURN OF THE KING
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 GOLD (DTS) STUCK ON YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MONA LIZA SMILE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) IN THE CUT
8 [illegible] DIABLO
9 [illegible] KILL BILL
10 [illegible] A TALE OF TWO SISTER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
3 (DOLBY) BROTHER BEAR
4 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 KILL BILL
2 DAIBLO
3 LOLLIPOP

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 KILL BILL
2 MAPUSOK
3 DIABLO
LAST SAMURAI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LOLLIPOP
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 MAPUSOK
2 LOLLIPOP
3 DIABLO
4 IN THE CUT
5 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
6 LAST SAMURAI

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 WRONG TURN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LORD OF THE RING-3
2 SCARY MOVIE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BENEATH LOCHNESS
2 NANANABIK
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 PURI
2 A TALE OF TWO SISTER
3 TWIN EFFECTS
4 (SDDS) MONA LIZA SMILE
5 DIABLO
6 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
7 (DTS) SHIRI
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 DIABLO
2 WISHER
3 (DTS) LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
4 LOLLIPOP
5 (DDS) LAST SAMURAI

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson INTERNET QUEEN
Lords BELYAS

MARRE THEATER
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KILL BILL
2 DAYO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LIZA SMILE
3 LOLLIPOP
4 SHIRI
5 IN THE CUT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 UNDER WORLD
2 LOLLIPOP

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 021-0242-0400
1 SKY OF LOVE
2 LORD OF THE RINGS 3
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MONA LISA SMILE
4 (SDDS) IN THE CUT
5 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
6 KILL BILL
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 (DTS ES) TWIN EFFECTS
4 THE GRUDGE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE GRUDGE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
4 (DTS) KILL BILL

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 GATHERING
2 INTERNET QUEEN
3 (DOLBY) SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
4 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 (DTS) TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DIABLO
2 (DTS) MONA LIZA SMILE
3 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI
4 TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 (DOLBY) TWIN EFFECTS
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 DIABLO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SCARY MOVIE
2 THE GRUDGE
3 (DOLBY) KILL BILL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BROTHER BEAR
2 STUCK ON YOU
3 (DOLBY) TWIN EFFECTS
4 (DTS) NAKED WEAPON

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 TWIN EFFECTS
2 KILL BILL
3 SCARY MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MEN
2 AMBISYOSA
3 LOLLIPOP
4 (DTS) ALIPIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 LOLLIPOP
5 DIABLO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 WISHER
2 HIYAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MASK
3 WISHER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 ALIPIN
2 PURI
3 (DTS) LOST ISLAND
4 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PURI
2 BRTHER BEAR
3 MEMENTO MORI
4 LAST SAMURAI

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 KISKISAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

julia roberts
mona lisa smile

NOW SHOWING

A SUPER VALENTINE PRESENTATION

#1 ROMANTIC FILM IN ASIA!

F4 HEARTTHROB BREWS HIS MAGIC OF LOVE AND MISADVENTURE IN....

JERRY YAN

Magic Kitchen

A touching and hilarious story of someone torn between two lovers.

JERRY YAN • MAGGIE Q • SAMMI CHENG • ANDY LAU • MICHAEL WONG • NICOLA CHEUNG
Directed by: LEE CHI NGAN
www.magic-kitchen.com

SMART PLDT bench/ YES!

Your Dream Date Becomes Real on Feb 11

Philippine Gala Premier on Feb.7 at SM Megamall
For tickets pls. call 6331901 "Free Imported calendar of the movie"

WE DELIVER!

Hungry for news that would feed your mind? The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers straight to your doorstep. Subscribe to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 526-03-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ______
Address ______
______ Tel. No. ______
Signature ______

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAKAT / DOUBLE SEDUCTION
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SEX SCANDAL
B	LORD OF THE RINGS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	PURI
CINEMA-3	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CINEMA-6	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-7	MEMENTO MORI
CINEMA-8	TWINS EFFECT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUCK ON YOU
CINEMA-12	LOTR 3. RETURN OF THE KING
CINEMA-14	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-15	DIABLO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 3
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-4	CABIN FEVER
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:05, 9:30	BROTHER BEAR GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	THE LAST SAMURAI PG13 12:40, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
IN THE CUT R18 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	STUCK ON YOU PG13 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00	MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45	PG-18
2	MONA LISA SMILE 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50	PG-13
3	BROTHER BEAR 11:45, 1:45, 3:45 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	GP
4	THE LAST SAMURAI 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:15	PG-13

SUPER FUN, SUPER SPOOKY THRILL RIDE ! **OPENS FEBRUARY 11 !**

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

EDDIE MURPHY
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
the Haunted Mansion
CHECK YOUR PULSE AT THE DOOR... IF YOU HAVE ONE
Walt Disney Pictures

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

PETRON
Keep the environment clean.
DIESEL MAX
Clean Diesel to the Max

BSP chief says RP better off than Argentina

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the Philippines remained better off than Argentina even if both economies shared similarities, particularly in terms of debt levels.

The central bank chief said the government must quickly address the budget deficit problem to prevent the country's debt from swelling and the fiscal position from further deteriorating.

"We are not in a debt or a fiscal crisis but if we don't address these problems immediately, we will be. The government must raise more revenues and pursue fiscal consolidation as it had been doing, regardless of who wins in the elections," Buenaventura warned.

He said the Philippines was better off than Argentina because it had been able to implement a number of crucial reforms that had started to help improve the government's revenue collections. He noted, however, that much had to be done to reverse the erosion in the fiscal sector during the previous years.

The Latin American economy defaulted on billions of dollars of debt and some analysts were concerned that the Philippines would go the same route.

The country's outstanding debt is more than 100 percent of its gross domestic product but the more crucial indicator of a debt crisis is the ratio of debt servicing to exports.

During the debt crisis years of the 1980s, the ratio of the Philippines' external debt to its export of goods and services stood at 232.6 percent or comparable to Argentina's 242.2 percent.

Debt service as a percentage of exports was higher for the Philippines at 70.8 percent in 1980 and only at 37.3 percent for Argentina. Through the years, however, the Latin American economy had exceeded the Philippines' debt service-to-export ratio.

By 1990, the external debt service ratio of the Philippines had gone down to 29.7 percent compared to Argentina's 37 percent.

The Philippines' consolidated public debt comprised of outstanding borrowings of the national government, state-owned banks and corporations, and the central bank has reached P5.16 trillion as of end-2002, up P752 billion or 17 percent from its level a year ago.

Total government debt is equivalent to 120.3 percent of the country's entire production as measured by the gross national product in 2002, up from 112.6 percent the previous year.

The country's overall outstanding debt has more than doubled since 1996 when it stood at only P2.237 trillion.

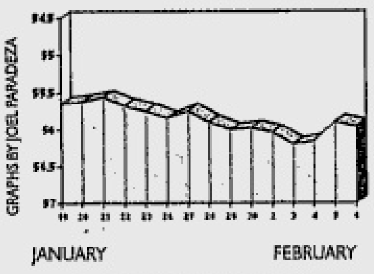
Over the last 10 years, the consolidated public debt stock had increased by more than P3 trillion or 160 percent from P1.91 trillion in 1993. But even then, the country's total debt exceeded the total output at an even higher ratio of 127.5 percent of GNP.

But the Philippines' debt, while huge, had an average maturity of 12 years unlike Argentina's debt

BSP/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.96 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2004

¥ 106.04 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2004

GOLD: $397.40-397.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 6, 2004

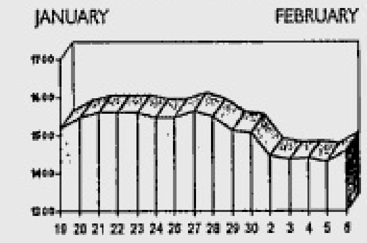
INTEREST RATES

February 06, 2004-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 6-Feb-04	MART1 5-Feb-04
1 Month	6.6675	6.4835
3 Months	6.657	6.4815
6 Months	7.9183	7.7083
1 Year	8.8446	8.6911
2 Years	9.6667	9.4467
3 Years	10.495	10.2839
4 Years	10.8183	10.7033
5 Years	11.225	11.06
7 Years	11.5417	11.4117
10 Years	11.76	11.6482
20 Years	12.125	12.035
25 Years	12.48	12.35

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

STOCKS jumped more than 2 percent yesterday, led by PLDT and second-ranked Globe Telecom Inc., as investors hunted for bargains after several days of losses.

"Sentiment was boosted by the peso's appreciation," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

PLDT, the country's biggest phone firm, leaped 7.06 percent or P60 to P910.

Its chief rival Globe, which is jointly owned by conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., rose 1.76 percent or P15 to P865.

The 33-share composite index ended 2.08 percent or 29.74 points higher at 1,461.53 points. The market is up 1.33 percent this year.

Turnover rose to P895.08 million from Thursday's slim P469.71 million.

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 36 to 16 and there were 24 stocks unchanged.

On Thursday, the central bank moved to protect the battered peso, hiking the liquidity reserves that banks must hold to 10 percent from 8 percent in its first major policy change since last August.

The peso jumped on the news, closing local trade at 55.90 to a dollar on Thursday.

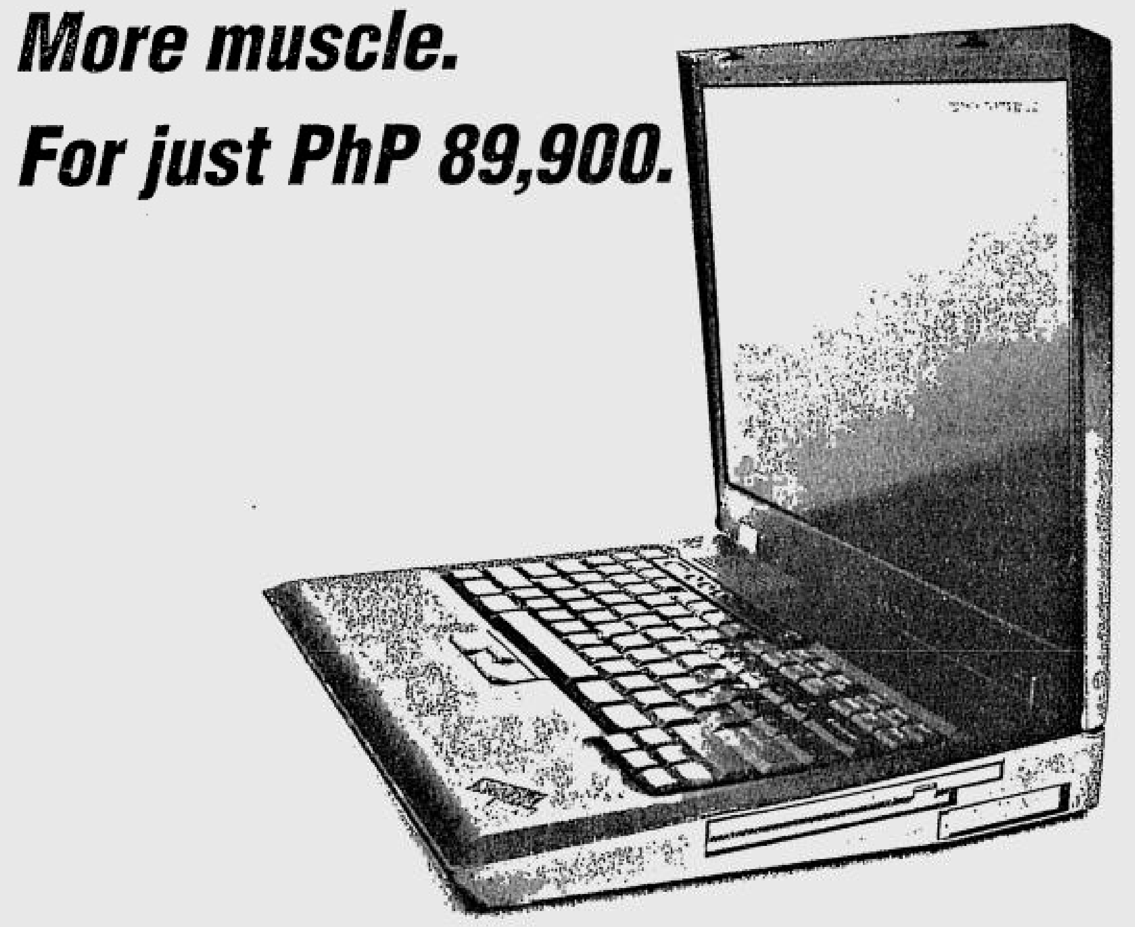
The currency sank to an all-time low of 56.22 last week as a ratings downgrade of the Philippines by Moody's Investors Service added to gloom about the political and economic outlook in the run-up to general elections on May 10.

Analysts doubted stocks could sustain their recovery as a rise in yields of government debt paper made the fixed-income market more attractive to investors. *Reuters*

Less fat.

More muscle.

For just PhP 89,900.



IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

Distinctive IBM Innovations
- Rapid Restore™ Ultra — one-button recovery solution
- Access IBM — one-touch access to online support

IBM ThinkPad G40 (23889EA)
Desktop alternative for the ultimate in flexibility
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.6GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 256MB RAM
- 30GB HDD
- 141 inch TFT display
- DVD / CDRW Combo drive
- 4 USB 2.0 ports
- Integrated modem/Ethernet LAN
- Norton Antivirus OEM Edition
- 3 fan speeds (slow, medium, fast)
- 1-year carry-in warranty

FREE Lexmark X1150 All-in-one printer

PhP 89,900†

IBM ThinkPad R40e (2684AA9)
Best blend of portability and essential features
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.0GHz-M
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 128MB RAM
- 30GB HDD
- 14.1 inch TFT display
- CD-ROM
- Integrated modem/Ethernet LAN
- Norton Antivirus OEM Edition
- 1-year carry-in warranty

FREE 128MB RAM

PhP 67,900†

IBM ThinkPad R40 (2722AA3)
Best blend of portability and essential features
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.4GHz
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11b
  - Intel® 855 Chipset Family
- Microsoft ®Windows® XP Home
- 256MB DDR SDRAM
- 30GB HDD
- DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- 15 inch TFT display
- Integrated modem/Ethernet LAN
- Norton Antivirus OEM Edition
- 1-year carry-in warranty

PhP 94,900†

The IBM ThinkPad G40 gives you desktop power in a notebook. So you don't have to compromise on performance or space at work.

The IBM ThinkPad G40 packs a lot of power into a compact body. You'll be speeding through work with the Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with 2.6GHz. Experience brighter images and text, thanks to the TFT display, which has been enhanced with Integrated Intel® Extreme Graphics. Despite the small size of the G40, you'll almost be fooled into thinking you're on a desktop PC: three integrated drives including a floppy and optical drives, plus four USB 2.0 ports.

The G40 is well equipped with IBM ThinkVantage™ Technologies like Rapid Restore™ Ultra, a brilliant one-button recovery system to help you back-up and restore valuable data. Help is also always on hand 24/7, with the Access IBM button.

Your comfort is our priority, which is why the G40 is designed with the EasyPivot, so you can easily swivel your notebook for comfortable viewing. Add the new ergonomic ComfortSlant full-size keyboard with a spacious layout and full-size keys, and you're all set to work as long as you like. The ThinkPad G40 gives you more than power, it gives you flexibility too. And it could be yours from as little as PhP 89,900. For details, visit **ibm.com**/ph today.

Blue Shop Value Partners: ABC Computers • Accent Micro Products Inc. • PC Live • Electroworld • Silicon Valley • The Computer Authority • Villman Computer Systems Inc.

Choose IBM today:
☎ **995-2426**
☎ **1-800-111-00711**
→ **direct@ph.ibm.com**
For more information

intel inside pentium 4

†Prices are VAT inclusive and subject to change without prior notice. IBM product names are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. © 2003 IBM Corp. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Certain Microsoft® software product(s) included with this computer may use technological measures for copy protection. IN SUCH EVENT, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE PRODUCT IF YOU DO NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PRODUCT ACTIVATION PROCEDURES. Product activation procedures and Microsoft's privacy policy will be detailed during initial launch of the product, or upon certain reinstallations for the software product(s) or reconfigurations of the computer, and may be completed by Internet or telephone (toll charges may apply). Intel, the Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. All rights reserved.

IBM

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PYRAMID SCAM UPDATE

Tibayan: Victim or victimizer?

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

FEATURE

WITH AN AVERAGE of five dependents each, Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. estimates a total of 2.5 million victims crushed under the weight of the pyramid scams that collapsed like a row of dominos last year.

Among them are 10,000 investors in the Tibayan Group of Investments Companies Inc. (TGIC), redounding to 60,000 lives hostaged in the ongoing standoff between law enforcers and TGIC chair Jesus V. Tibayan.

A year ago on Feb. 7, this criminology graduate turned businessman went into hiding with his clan and immediate family under hot pursuit by investors and bounty hunters.

In the yearlong information vacuum, estafa cases have multiplied against him and his wife Palmy, company officers Ezequiel Martinez, Liborio Elacio, Rommel Mamuric, Jimmy Catigan, Rico Puerto and Nelda Baran.

Former company treasurer Palmy Tibayan and financial adviser Rico Puerto were recently arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation but JVT and the rest remain underground.

Behind bars

Why this is so—when the other alleged major pyramid scam principals Rose Baladjay, Maria Teresa Santos, and Ervin Mateo are already behind bars and compelled to activate repayment schemes on pain of continued imprisonment and worse—can be traced to both sides of the law.

After Palmy Tibayan's arrest in the Christmas season, NBI Anti-Fraud Division chief Efren Meneses replied to a question on when they would get her husband: "*Mahirap ituloy ngayon at baka ma-accuse kaming naghahanap ng pamasko.*"

This echoes SEC Chair Lilia Bautista's own account of how NBI agents returned to the office of Rose Baladjay after Multitel's CDO was served—and grabbed cash in the multi-millions as "evidence" against the earlier order of SEC enforcement chief Tomas Syquia.

No apparent sanctions have been imposed on these criminals, a.k.a. "agents of the law."

That pyramid scammers are to crooked law enforcers what wealthy Chinese are to kidnappers, often also hoodlums in uniform, is further illustrated by the experience of one Tibayan investor.

Already on tenterhooks over his P6-million investment, this pastor was incredulous at a frantic call from TGIC officer Catigan, requesting not prayers but another million to buy his release from mulcting police agents.

Impasse

Underneath their panic, thousands of investors believed Tibayan's claim of injustice in the SEC's cease and desist order (CDO) served on the duly licensed TGIC in late January 2003.

In counterpoint, the fatal run of investment under a preceding "trial by publicity" and the arrest without warrant plus illegal detention of employees in an investor-led NBI raid in early February surrounded him with an initial wave of investor sympathy that aided his escape.

Tibayan's credibility was bolstered when one Rajo Isa Parimalan, identifying himself as the managing director of Malaysian Medical Practitioners Berhad (MMPB), emerged in March—first as a buyer, then as a limited partner of TGIC.

Malaysian investor

In two investor assemblies, Parimalan promised to return investor money as MMPB's initial outlay for a medical city with a show window for medical equipment, to be built in the former TGIC offices in Las Piñas.

But the plan's authenticity remained unclear at a hearing of Sen. Robert Jaworski's Senate committee on finance soon after, despite the presence of Elacio and Catigan who had produced the "Malaysian investor."

By mid-April, chaotic filing of claims overseen by an amateurish team assembled by the now invisible TGIC comptroller Elacio unfolded an ongoing nightmare.

It was confirmed as an exercise in futility when Parimalan's lawyers gradually revealed that MMPB could not pay while records of company assets were both incomplete and difficult to verify with vital documents now missing with Elacio.

From what the lawyers had gathered, TGIC assets moreover totaled only P70 million against total investor claims of P5 billion.

Tibayan was, and is, the master key to repayment.

In late March, it seemed there was a positive development when he asked a relative to arrange for a "safe conduct pass" for him to testify at the Jaworski hearings just before the 2003 Holy Week break.

Sleuthing

Jaworski's lawyer Richard Nethercott replied that Tibayan had to surrender and submit to detention in the Senate.

There he could use the Holy Week break consulting with lawyers in relative safety from bounty hunters and irate investors.

Stung by the word "surrender," protesting innocence, Tibayan refused the opportunity to clear his name and cut through growing chaos.

Beginning to despair, many investors turned to sleuthing.

Up came an eyewitness account of Palmy Tibayan disappearing with a suitcase full of cash, apparently quickly handed to her investor relatives as the CDO fell.

Next came a sighting of a company SUV in her brother Gilbert Baleña's possession, one of 49 office vehicles listed in the Deed of Trust with MMPB.

(By the time his sister Palmy testified in a Jaworski hearing last December, the count was down to 19.)

At summer's end, Parimalan's lawyers were still demanding missing documents if the deal was to be consummated when investors spied on the glib Malaysian already living in Tibayan's two houses and using TGIC cars.

At this point, an activist trio also came close to picking up Palmy Tibayan in a citizens' arrest foiled by comical miscuing.

By June muddy waters had become poisonous murk in a falling out between Tibayan and the "recovery team" he had appointed under Elacio to whom he had hastily entrusted a Power of Attorney.

Now JVT dropped a bomb in a secret meeting with a trusted investor in August, first saying that his signature on the initial memorandum of agreement was forged.

He added that contrary to Parimalan's claim, he had not met the man before his former security officer Catigan brought him in. Now he suspected that the Malaysian and his "recovery team" were cutting him out of negotiations and helping themselves to his personal and company assets.

Recovery plan

In conclusion, Tibayan said he was ready to work directly with investors in a recovery plan.

The falling-out was confirmed in a cryptic text message to investors from Elacio, now in deep hiding with a vanished company car: "despite our sacrifices, working without pay, the man responsible for all this is not willing to meet his responsibilities."

Soon after, Tibayan was almost apprehended by an NBI team led to him by Elacio and Catigan associates purportedly returning missing documents.

It was a wake-up call to investors to look beyond a deus ex machina conjured by hunted men and a shadowy "foreign investor." A Federation of Investors Tulungan was born in September, the third and largest of such organizations.

Unlike the first two, however, the majority of its members had yet to file cases, some stubbornly keeping faith in Tibayan, others from leariness of exorbitant lawyers' fees in a legal calvary that threatens to erode, if not completely vaporize, hard-earned savings.

In a long-distance contact with Tibayan, the federation aimed to get all investors paid, non-members included.

With JVT's encouragement, elected officials quizzed Parimalan's lawyers on the real status of TGIC assets and consulted the SEC on a possible receivership arrangement.

Learning that the Elacio team had misfiled investor claims by first names then tried to charge Parimalan P700,000 for the job, federation officials proceeded to verify and reencode 27 boxes of investor claims themselves on volunteer time.

They submitted a recovery plan to Tibayan in late October, hoping for a go-signal to begin repayment by Christmas.

Instead came disturbing silence that continued into a bleak holiday season, broken only by handwritten open letters still promising repayment but without a timetable.

Mostly railing on his now isolated "struggle against injustice," Tibayan's words had begun to sound like latter-day NPA ranting, underlined by a warning—"no one gets paid if anything happens to me."

Focused on the steep price exacted from him and his clan in extended hiding (he did not mention his wife and in-laws), he seemed to be losing touch with the 60,000 other lives in limbo with him—85 percent of them retirees with vanished life savings, many overseas contract workers, all in sudden penury with no end in sight.

Price to pay

The ultimate price is being paid. A middle-aged investor died from a heart attack in a taxi upon hearing the news of TGIC's collapse.

A bank manager who solicited millions and a contractor's wife who, without his knowledge invested P600,000 intended to build them a house have reportedly committed suicide.

Another investor lost her ailing husband to untimely death under shared pressure from the P30 million she had solicited and could not return.

Survivors' lives have been suspended, an unestablished number now trapped in 5-6 financing for survival, marriages and families broken, life-and-death medical treatment derailed, children pulled out of school, lots, homes and cars bought on installment foreclosed.

Lost savings

A man who rose from janitor to design engineer lost nearly all his savings of 40 years.

The P35 million an overseas contract worker earned through years of homesick labor vanished at the eve of realizing his dream of a Jollibee franchise in retirement.

Investor stories go on and on. Meanwhile, machismo stung by Tibayan's yearlong evasion of investor agony, angry Caviteños have begun campaigning for a headhunt for Tibayan's blood—all else be hanged.

In his silence, the long-held public image of a devout Christian businessman sponsoring First Friday Masses in his office fades into a giant question mark over a fugitive trail littered with broken dreams: is Jesus Tibayan, 34, a victim or a victimizer, a youthful folk hero turned tragic heel?

His own incarcerated wife's plea for him to surface and face the music with her seems to be falling on deaf ears, faith in the Philippine justice system at an all-time low, hubris at an all-time high.

LUKEWARM INTEREST, OPPOSITION

Delay seen in PSE stock offering

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange's plan to offer as much as P733 million worth of shares through a private placement is being derailed by lukewarm investor interest and stiff opposition from its own shareholders.

A source privy to the underwriting of the PSE's offering told the INQUIRER that the private placement, which was originally targeted for closing before the May elections, might not happen too soon.

"There may be some delay as investors find the price high," the source said.

The source explained, however, that there were many reputable local institutions which were keen on investing in the PSE.

Although the P119.50 price per share approved by the PSE board for the offering was way below the last closing price of P195, it still represented a premium against the book value of about P105 a share.

But while prospective investors find the private placement offering price too high, a lot of shareholders complained that it was too low.

In a letter to PSE chair Alicia Arroyo and president Cayetano Paderanga Jr. dated Feb. 5, a group of veteran brokers led by former PSE chairs Robert Coyiuto Jr. and Trinidad Kalaw questioned the "non-transparent" way the exercise was being pursued and demanded that the proposed sale be submitted for approval of PSE stockholders during the next annual meeting this March 13.

The letter, which was also signed by former PSE directors Ismael Cruz, Eddie Gobing and Filomeno Francisco, noted that under the PSE's revised rule on additional listing of shares which took effect last Sept. 12, a transaction such as a private placement must be subject to the approval of stockholders.

"A significant number of PSE shareholders do not agree with the said indicative price of P119.50 per share. They believe that compared to the market price, the indicative price represents a huge discount and is detrimental to the interest of the PSE shareholders," the letter said.

Metro Alliance investing $30M in petrochem project

METRO Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp., a holding company for logistics and chemical businesses, is investing at least $30 million in a new consortium that will acquire a petrochemical plant.

Metro Alliance corporate secretary Avelino Sebastian Jr. told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the company had invested in Polymax Worldwide Ltd. (Polymax), a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

Its initial investment of $30 million is part of its participation in a consortium led by Polymax.

The PSE, for its part, said it could not determine yet whether this deal should be covered by its rule on substantial acquisition and reverse takeovers because the terms and conditions of the transaction have not been disclosed by Metro Alliance.

Under the PSE's rule, when an issuer or its subsidiary has merged or consolidated with or otherwise acquires a direct or indirect interest in an unlisted company or group and such interest is 10 percent or more of the total book value, trading shall be suspended until more information had been disclosed.

Metro Alliance, formerly Marsman & Co. Inc., divested its 33.13-percent stake in Metro Drug Inc. and 20 percent in JDH-Zuellig (Philippines) Inc. in 2000 and then acquired 43.46 percent of Mabuhay Vynil Corp. and 60 percent of Asia Health Inc.

The holding firm incurred losses last year due to provisioning for the impairment in value of MVC amounting to P113 million.

As of end-September last year, Metro Alliance had P546.24 billion in current assets as against P386.79 million in current liabilities.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17	119,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	47.5	45.5	47	375,200
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	3,010
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	9,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	400,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	25.5	197,200
Philippine National Bank	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	7,100
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	111	149	111	148	580
Manulife Financial Corp.	1985	1985	1985	1985	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	16,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1505	1505	1500	1500	1,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.5	23	75,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	870	845	865	202,290
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	24,195,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.14	0.14	70,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	116,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	865	925	865	910	318,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.75	18	18.75	370,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	30.5	27.5	30	2,435,900
Petron Corp.	2.8	3	2.8	3	1,677,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	106,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	387,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	9,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	35,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,600,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55	56	282,000
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69.5	141,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	68,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	4,383,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	496,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.9	1.02	0.9	1.02	3,820,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	51,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.58	15,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,020,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.75	665,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	421,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	24,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	7,340,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	68,600
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	210,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	23	22.5	22.75	412,700
OTHERS					
FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY	405	405	405	405	1,170
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	9,791,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	19,651,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	63,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	9,567,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	360,000

BSP chief says RP . . .

From page B1

that piled up in short-term maturities. Public debt carry an average maturity of 18.9 percent for external borrowings and five years for domestic debt.

External debt ratio was lower for the Philippines at 219 percent in 1990 and down to 181.3 percent in 2002.

But Argentina's economy grew at a faster rate particularly from 1991 when its GDP improved by 10.5 percent, and by 8.5 percent in 1997.

During the same period, the fastest GDP recorded by the Philippines was 5.8 percent in 1996. In 1991, GDP contracted by 0.6 percent and again by 0.5 percent in 1998.

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance and Telephone Co. will hold an investors' briefing to discuss the company's full year 2003 financial and operating results on Feb. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Makati Shagri-La Hotel, Makati City.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. announced that it would soon launch the Corinthian Executive Regency located at Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

* * *

THE **PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange** board of directors appointed on Jan. 28, Jurisita Maranan Quintos as vice president of the operations group.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. changed the venue of its annual stockholders' meeting to Mandarin Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati. The meeting will be held on March 22, 9 a.m.

* * *

SECURITY Bank Corp. disclosed a net income of P631 million for 2003, 24 percent higher than the P508 million it earned in 2002.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. announced that majority of the corporation's creditor banks have approved the restructuring amendments to the existing omnibus agreement. Details of the amendments will be covered by a formal agreement.

* * *

MBF Inc. disclosed that the change of its corporate name from MBf Inc. to IPVG Corp. and the change in its stock trading symbol from MBF to IPVG would be reflected in the Exchange's computer system on Feb. 9.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

February 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797130	1.000000	56.004000
Japan	Yen	0.007532	0.009449	0.529200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461857	1.833900	102.705700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102546	0.128644	7.204600
Switzerland	Franc	0.637398	0.799616	44.781700
Canada	Dollar	0.596297	0.748055	41.894100
Singapore	Dollar	0.471118	0.591017	33.099300
Australia	Dollar	0.610033	0.765287	42.859100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.114460	2.652590	148.555700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212563	0.266660	14.934000
Brunei	Dollar	0.469729	0.589275	33.001800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.020450	0.025654	1.436700
UAE	Dirham	0.217030	0.272264	15.247900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.254500	70.257000
Argentina	Peso	0.268847	0.337268	18.888400
Brazil	Real	0.271780	0.340948	19.094500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134208	0.168364	9.429100
India	Rupee	0.017644	0.022134	1.239600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209794	0.263186	14.739500
Mexico	New Peso	0.071415	0.089590	5.017400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.548648	0.688279	38.546400
Norway	Kroner	0.114372	0.143480	8.035500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013997	0.017559	0.983400
South Africa	Rand	0.115026	0.144300	8.081400
Korea	Won	0.000684	0.000858	0.048100
Sweden	Kroner	0.108733	0.136405	7.639200
Syria	Pound	0.015478	0.019417	1.087400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024046	0.030166	1.689400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000500	0.000627	0.035100

DEBT PAYMENTS

Dollar reserves down

THE COUNTRY'S dollar reserves dropped by $761 million to $16.11 billion as of end-January, from $16.871 billion a month ago, due to debt payments of the national government and the central bank.

Still, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that the current level of gross international reserves was enough to pay for 4.5 months worth of imports of goods and services. The latest GIR is also equivalent to 2.8 times of the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.4 times based on residual maturity.

A healthy level of dollar holdings is good for the peso as it indicates that the central bank has enough ammunition to stave off speculation against the local currency.

Consisting mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank. It also includes gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The peso closed at 55.96 to $1 yesterday from 55.90 on Thursday. The local currency improved after the BSP raised the reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes to 19 percent from 17 percent.

"The decline in reserves in January was mainly due to the debt service obligations of the national government and the BSP. Despite the decline, this level of GIR is substantially higher than the target of $15 billion for end-2004," said BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos in a statement.

The external reserves are being artificially propped up by huge foreign borrowings that the government and the central bank incurred last year. It helped that the price of gold had gone up recently, which led to the revaluation of the country's gold holdings.

The national government and National Power Corp. raised more than $3 billion from the foreign bond market while the BSP borrowed more than $1 billion in 2003.

"Clearly, our level of reserves reflect the government's prudent fiscal and debt management and would show investors that we are not in a crisis as we have enough funds to pay our maturing obligations," said the BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura in an earlier interview.

Still, the Philippines has among the lowest level of external reserves in Asia considering that Thailand has about three times more, South Korea has about $100 billion and Japan even twice that amount. During the Asian crisis, the country's GIR dropped to single-digit levels.

Marubeni to buy chicken from RP food processors

By Christine A. Gaylican

JAPANESE conglomerate Marubeni Corp. will import no less than 30,000 metric tons of chicken parts from the Philippines, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. yesterday confirmed.

This is the result of the meeting on Thursday between Marubeni officials and representatives of the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators Inc. (Pabi)

"This is just the initial figure. We anticipate that the number will be bigger," said Lorenzo at the sidelines of the National Rice Summit yesterday.

He said the Marubeni representatives were interested in specific chicken parts such as legs and thighs, which it used to import from China.

The Japanese company is on the look out for new sources of chicken after banning chicken imports from China and nine other Asian countries due to the Avian flu outbreak.

The Philippine poultry industry has so far remained free of the bird flu virus.

In another development, agribusiness firms belonging to the Pabi yesterday said they were also looking at the Middle East as another possible market for processed chicken.

Pabi spokesperson Ruben Pascual said in a press conference that member-companies were seeking "halal" certification in order to export to Middle East countries.

"There is really a huge potential for Philippine companies to ship chicken products to the Middle East but the halal accreditation must come first," said Pascual.

Halal accreditation indicates that products passed through the proper Muslim rites during preparation.

The agriculture department has confirmed that Brunei was keen on importing chicken from the Philippines.

The Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei are the only countries in Asia that were declared free of the bird flu virus.

SEC to appeal court decision on case vs BW's Dante Tan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would not allow Dante Tan to go scot-free despite the dismissal of one of his stock manipulation cases.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC was set to file an appeal for the reconsideration of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court's order dismissing a stock manipulation case against Dante Tan.

She said the SEC's prosecution and enforcement department were preparing legal action to reverse the court order.

Bautista also clarified that only one of the 10 cases of stock manipulation filed by the SEC against Dante Tan was dismissed and that this would not prejudice the development of the other cases filed against him.

"We want to dispel misinformation that Dante Tan is already scot-free. There are so many pending cases against him, and only one was dismissed," said Bautista in a press briefing.

Bautista also said the SEC was coordinating with the Department of Justice on ways to counter the dismissal of one of the cases against Tan.

Dante Tan was one of those accused by the SEC of manipulating the stock price of Best World Resources Corp., which resulted in the near-collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1999. Tan is the majority stockholder of BW Resources.

In 1999, share prices of BWRC jumped to a level that spawned suspicion of stock manipulation. From P0.80 per share, BWRC stock initially rose to P30 per share and then to a high of P107 within a few months' time. The significant price movement occurred despite the absence of disclosures.

Company officials were unable to explain the price upsurge.

The unusual rise in BWRC's stock price led to a surge in the unloading of shares so that investors could take advantage of the huge profits. The huge selling of shares immediately resulted in a steep decline in BWRC's stock price to P27 per share, making other investors suffer significant losses.

By October of the same year, investors' losses reached hundreds of millions of pesos, while brokerage houses reported losses way beyond their capital.

TO CUBAO
TO MAKATI
P. GUEVARRA
P. GUEVARRA
PADILLA

Move in today for only P100,000*!

*Initial downpayment, balance payable in 12 months

LA LOUVIÈRE

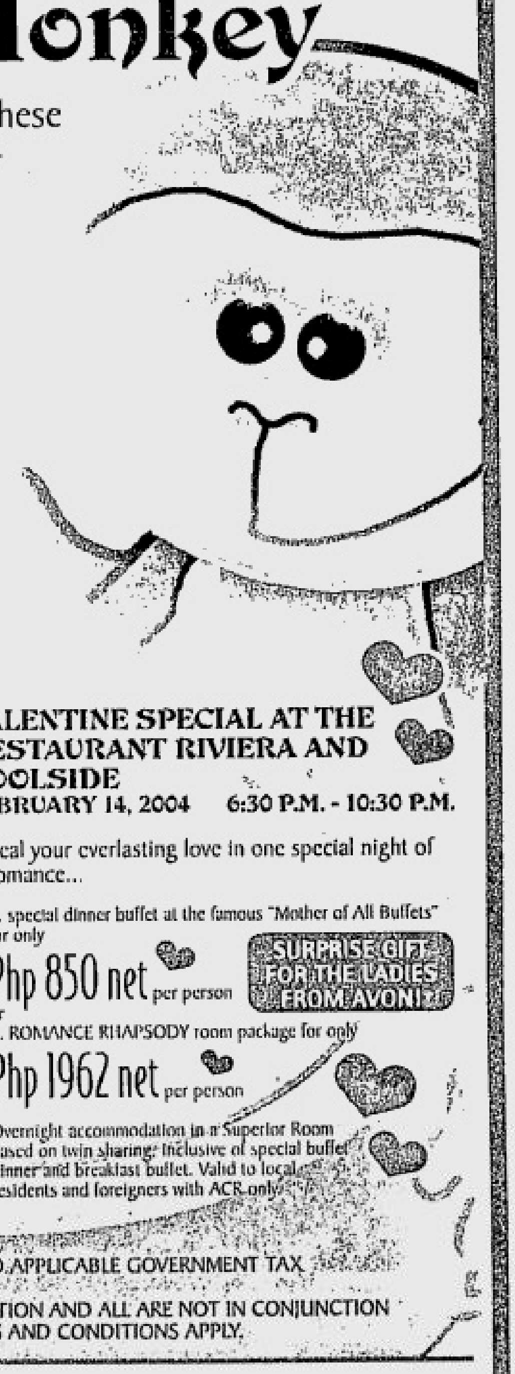
Now you can move in this 3-storey French Mediterranean home in San Juan for only P100,000*!

La Louviere is close to everything you need–exclusive schools, commercial establishments, food and entertainment centers, churches and hospitals.

superior features you can come home to

Visit our actual units at Maclang cor. Padilla Sts., San Juan, or call
725-5427 • 724-6028 • 750-1300

ANOTHER QUALITY DEVELOPMENT OF QUADRILLION
www.quadrilliongroup.com



Get Lucky in the Year of the Monkey

We give you a prosperous beginning with these bountiful offerings until MARCH 31, 2004

20% DISCOUNT WEEKEND SPECIAL AT THE RESTAURANT RIVIERA
(except on February 14, dinner)
~~Php 680 ++~~ NOW! Php 544 ++*
per person on lunch or dinner buffet

TWICE THE FUN FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
A SAN MIGUEL BEER PROMO
Php 125 ++*
Buy one and get one for FREE!
Available at the RESTAURANT RIVIERA and LOBBY LOUNGE

A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH ELLA AND JUN AT THE LOBBY LOUNGE
Soothe your senses with the contemporary R&B music of international singing duo Ella and Jun at the Lobby Lounge nightly except Wednesdays and Sundays from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

CELEBRATION JUBILATION
JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM / GRADUATION BALL PACKAGE
for as low as
Php 650 net per person for a minimum of 50 persons
inclusive of • selection of standard set menu • complimentary one round of iced tea • complimentary function room • complimentary standard backdrop • complimentary use of dance floor and stage • complimentary standard table centerpiece

SPECIAL TREAT TO THE GRADUATES!
GET 20% DISCOUNT
on lunch or dinner buffet at Restaurant Riviera if you are a party of 5 or more. Just present any proof of graduation.

LOCAL RESIDENTS PROMO EXTENDED!
Php 1,999 net
• Overnight stay in a SUPERIOR ROOM, single/twin occupancy
• Open to local residents and foreigners with ACR

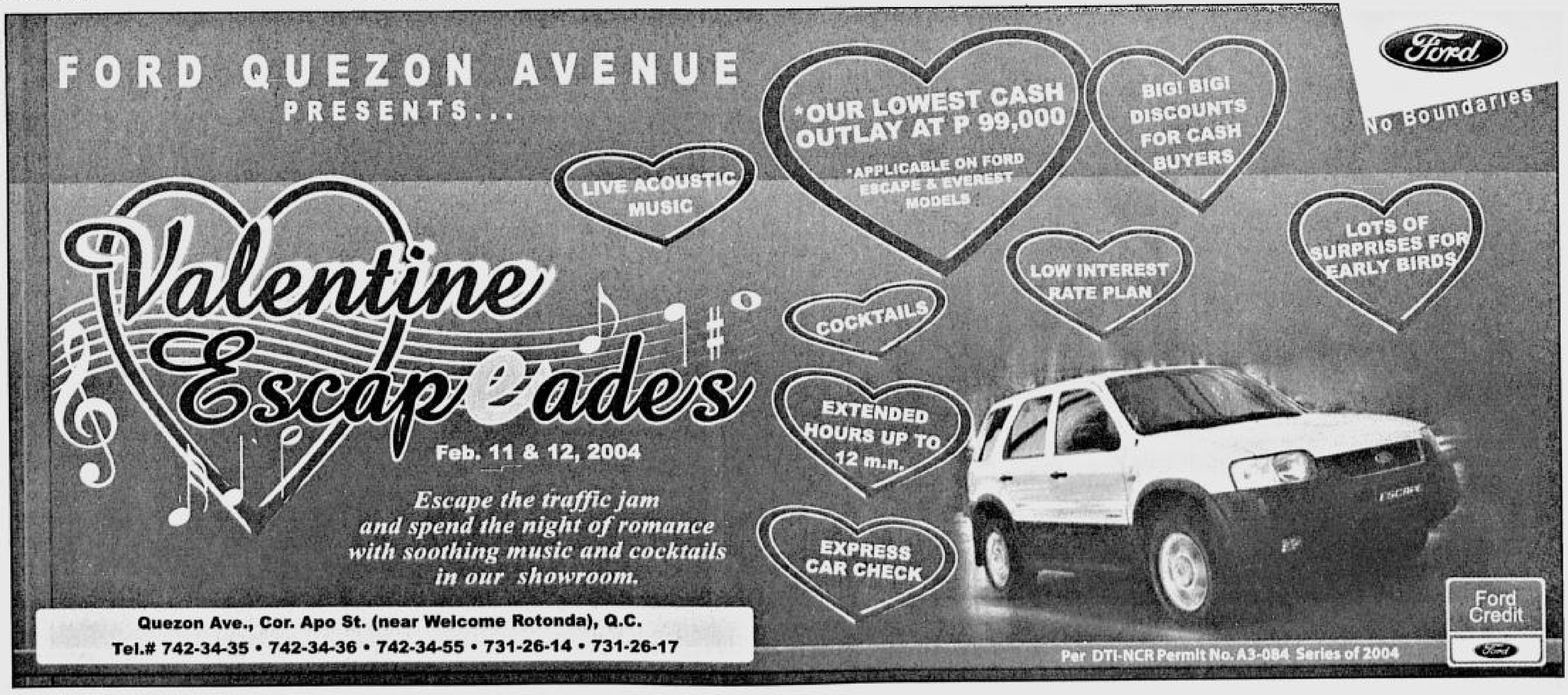
VALENTINE SPECIAL AT THE RESTAURANT RIVIERA AND POOLSIDE
FEBRUARY 14, 2004 6:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.
Seal your everlasting love in one special night of romance...
... special dinner buffet at the famous "Mother of All Buffets" for only
Php 850 net per person
SURPRISE GIFT FOR THE LADIES FROM AVON!
or
... ROMANCE RHAPSODY room package for only
Php 1962 net per person
Overnight accommodation in a Superior Room based on twin sharing. Inclusive of special buffet dinner and breakfast buffet. Valid to local residents and foreigners with ACR only.

*PRICE IS SUBJECT TO 10% SERVICE CHARGE AND APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT TAX

PRIOR RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR ROOM ACCOMMODATION AND ALL ARE NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER HOTEL PROMOTIONS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA

FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 854 8888
Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines
E-mail: guest@heritagehotelmanila.com



FORD QUEZON AVENUE PRESENTS...

Valentine Escapeades
Feb. 11 & 12, 2004

Escape the traffic jam and spend the night of romance with soothing music and cocktails in our showroom.

*OUR LOWEST CASH OUTLAY AT P 99,000
*APPLICABLE ON FORD ESCAPE & EVEREST MODELS

BIG! BIG! DISCOUNTS FOR CASH BUYERS

LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC

LOW INTEREST RATE PLAN

LOTS OF SURPRISES FOR EARLY BIRDS

COCKTAILS

EXTENDED HOURS UP TO 12 m.n.

EXPRESS CAR CHECK

Ford No Boundaries

Quezon Ave., Cor. Apo St. (near Welcome Rotonda), Q.C.
Tel.# 742-34-35 • 742-34-36 • 742-34-55 • 731-26-14 • 731-26-17

Ford Credit

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-084 Series of 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Hypertension common even among rural folk

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

SAN JOSE, Surigao del Norte—This fishing town in Dinagat Island, which lies north of Surigao City in northeastern Mindanao, has one particularly disconcerting health condition: cases of hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases especially among people aged 50 and above are increasing.

What is strange is that the residents seldom eat *lechon* (roasted pig) and everyone should be getting enough exercise from catching fish or working in the field, the two main livelihood in this town of 26,000 inhabitants.

"Ten years ago this was not even in our list of priorities, but now we are mobilizing all our 12 barangays and coordinating with our rural health physician to check this increasing prevalence," said Zacarias Vales, the town's vice mayor.

What they found out was that the townsfolk had a penchant for high-sodium diet, including processed meats, salty snack food, and canned food, apart from their regular fare of fish and rice.

Too much sodium intake is linked to hypertension/high blood pressure and heart disease, fluid retention (edema) and kidney stones.

Another concern was the high rate of smoking and drinking among the residents.

Advocacy campaign

As soon as the reasons behind the high hypertension rate became evident, San Jose Mayor Allan Ecleo II and several community leaders began an advocacy campaign to enjoin the people to modify their diet (by eating more fruits and vegetables).

They also intensified the anti-smoking and drinking campaign and allocated funds for the purchase of cholesterol and high blood pressure drugs.

The campaign was an offshoot of the Capacity Enhancement Workshops the local officials took under the Leaders for Health Project, a joint initiative of the Health Unit of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, the Department of Health (through the Doctors to the Barrios Program) and Pfizer Inc. (through the Pfizer Foundation).

"Hopefully, we will be seeing positive results very soon," said a confident Vales.

The situation in far-flung rural San Jose is multiplied many times over in other parts of the country. According to the Philippine Society of Hypertension, 12.6 million Filipinos today have hypertension.

Healthy restaurants

To help reduce the incidence of hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases, the Philippine Heart Association is spearheading the celebration of Heart Month this February. Part of the advocacy campaign is to encourage food establishments to prioritize and include a healthy menu and promote a smoke-free environment for the well-being of their diners.

Last Wednesday, the PHA awarded two Pasig City restaurants for coming up with heart-friendly menus and designating no-smoking areas.

"The Le Soufflé and Red Table Hong Kong Cuisine are the first awardees of the Mag-HL (healthy lifestyle) Tayo sa Resto project for prioritizing and including healthy cuisine in their menu," PHA president Dr. Romeo Santos announced during the Puso sa Puso Media Forum at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

To date, 40 restaurants in Pasig have been enjoined to serve healthy foods since the project's launch last September.

A HIGH sodium diet, prevalent even in rural areas, contributes to the high rate of hypertension in the country. Experts say there are 12.6 million hypertensive Filipinos today.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology provides technical assistance to these establishments on the computation of calories and nutrient composition of their recipes in labeling healthy dishes in their menus.

"We need to focus on increased consumption of foods high in fiber such as complex carbohydrates (corn, oatmeal, whole wheat pasta, unpolished rice, starchy root crops or tubers), fruits and vegetables, fish, lean meats, chicken, dried beans and nuts, soybean products, and unsaturated fats," said Santos.

Nutrition paper

A nutrition paper published recently by the European Heart Network highlighted five goals which would yield the largest public health gains:

- Reduced intake of saturated fat
- Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Reduced salt intake
- Increased physical activity (like sports, exercise and avoiding being a couch potato)
- Reduced body mass index.

As part of the Heart Month, the PHA and its partners in the private and public sectors will be holding the Lakad Puso tomorrow. The walkathon at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City hopes to draw attention to the health benefits of walking and other forms of physical activity.

Said Santos: "A growing number of us spend the day in sedentary jobs and the evenings in front of the TV set, yet all available medical and scientific evidence suggest that regular exercise is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways of looking good and achieving longer life."

Tips and queries

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

READERS not only e-mail questions, but give useful hints as well. For those who cannot find my books in bookstores, please note the contact numbers and e-mail addresses of Anvil Publishing sales in this next letter.

Ma. Mae Depita Uy [mduy@eudoramail.com] writes:

I have been looking for your book "Math Made Easy" in National Bookstore, Cagayan de Oro. I even placed an order for the book but I still haven't gotten hold of it. Is it still in circulation? Is there any math book that is math-friendly to individuals like me who are mathematically challenged? I'm 33 years old and a mother of two kids. I want them to be confident in dealing with math, and that should start with me. God bless you. More power!

I commend your positive attitude. You are right, if you want your kids to like math, then you yourself should at least not hate it. My books are still in circulation, but our bookstores sadly restock very slowly. I am touched that you even placed an order (paging National Bookstore!). Please contact Anvil Publishing sales at 637-3621 or 637-5141 (ask for Lorie or Bong, or e-mail at anvilsales@eudoramail.com). God bless you, too!

Home study

"Frustrated teacher" Rafael Caballero [rafaellco8@yahoo.com] says:

I'm a reader of your column. I am a physical therapist, but it is my dream to become a math teacher. I am planning to take 18 units in professional education, but I was advised to take science as my major subject. How can I reconcile this? Do you know if there is a school that offers home study programs? Please advise me about this. Preferably, I want to teach in high school.

Welcome to the teaching profession! We are always glad to have someone join our ranks. If you want to teach high school math, you need to master algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics, aside from knowing a lot about sciences such as physics and chemistry, which use a lot of math.

The advice given you was a sound one. In my experience, education units are important, but what most of our math teachers lack is mastery of content. Thus, you need to do the "hard" stuff.

Sadly, home study is still not widespread here, but I know that the Department of Education has pointers regarding this. Why don't you ask them? Another alternative is e-learning, such as that sponsored by the UP Open University.

Of course if you want to be a really good teacher, you should go into a masteral program for mathematics education. Ateneo de Manila offers a good program here (we have been training a lot of public school teachers in this regard). Call the Math Department at 426-6125, get a brochure, and look at the requirements. Good luck!

First aid for burns

A helpful reader, Guido Schiavoni [guidoschiavoni@msn.com], has this tip. I haven't tried it, but who knows?

I have found out that if you burn yourself the best thing is put a slice of tomato on it. I worked in a coffee shop for a while back. I once slipped and poured boiling water on the back of my hand. It really hurt! A co-worker told me to to put a tomato on it. I felt stupid doing it, but it took the pain away immediately and left no blister or mark of any kind. The tomato works well!

Math pattern

My friend Chita Rosales of Ateneo Academic Affairs sent this lovely piece:

1 x 8 + 1 = 9
12 x 8 + 2 = 98
123 x 8 + 3 = 987
1234 x 8 + 4 = 9876
12345 x 8 + 5 = 98765
123456 x 8 + 6 = 987654
1234567 x 8 + 7 = 9876543
12345678 x 8 + 8 = 98765432
123456789 x 8 +9=987654321

This is just one of infinite math patterns which are not only factual, but beautiful, besides. Why don't you try and doodle some equations? The number 9 holds many fascinating secrets which are easy to discover. Another tip is to investigate Pascal's triangle, a favorite of kids, and adults as well.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Have a problem? Sleep on it, say German scientists

THE ADVICE to "sleep on it" could be well founded, researchers in Germany have found out.

After a good night's sleep a problem that seemed insurmountable the night before can often appear more manageable, although the evidence until now has been anecdotal.

But researchers at the University of Luebek in Germany have designed an experiment that showed a good night's sleep can improve insight and problem-solving.

"If you have some newly acquired memories in your brain, sleep acts on these memories and restructures them so that (when you wake up) the insight into a problem which you could not solve before increases," said Dr. Jan Born, a neuroscientist at the university.

To test the theory, researchers taught volunteers two simple rules to help them convert a string of numbers into a new order. There was also a third, hidden rule, which could help them increase their speed in solving the problem.

The researchers, who reported their findings in the science journal Nature, divided the volunteers into two groups: half were allowed to sleep after the training while the remainder were forced to stay awake.

Born and his team noticed that the group that had slept after the training was twice as likely to figure out the third rule as the other group.

"Sleep helped," Born said in a telephone interview. "The important thing is that you have to have a memory representation in your brain of the problem you want to solve and then you sleep, so it can act on the problem."

But Born admitted that he and his team don't know how restructuring of memories occurs or what governs it.

Pierre Maquet and Perrine Ruby of the University of Liege in Belgium said the experimental evidence supports the anecdotal suggestions that sleep can stimulate creative thinking.

"The authors (of the study) have applied a clever test that allows them to determine exactly when insight occurs in the time-course of learning," they said in a commentary.

Although the role of sleep in human creativity will still be a mystery, the research gives people good reason to fully respect their periods of sleep, they added.

Reuters

Danger signs

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

DURING my junior year in high school, my economics teacher assigned each of her students to do an economic profile on a country. I had to report on Mozambique, an African nation (the exact location of which escapes me at this moment) that had spent most of the past century at war with other nations and itself.

Unsurprisingly, at the time of my report Mozambique was broke and needed investors. The problem was that the country had been seeded with so many land mines it wasn't safe for anyone to build or farm in many areas. It also didn't help any that it cost approximately $1 (this was at the time of my report) to plant a land mine and $1,000 to safely remove it.

By safely removing a land mine, I mean locating and then disposing of it without any injury or fatality. (The most widely used method involves poking a stick into the ground and hopefully not dying.)

Aresa says that back in 1996, the United Nations estimated that the cost of removing land mines would exceed 50 billion euros. Right now 1 euro is about $1.25 and $1 is worth about 23,100 Mozambique meticais (MZM), which means 1 MZM is equivalent to $0.00004329. With these numbers you can see why Mozambique has a problem.

Flowers as mine detectors

I cited Aresa, and the obvious question is, is it trustworthy?

Aresa is Aresa Biodetection, a Danish company founded in 2001 (website http://www.aresa.dk/). The Mozambique report came to mind when Aresa recently announced that it was able to genetically modify a weed called thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) so that red flowers would bloom in the presence of buried explosives.

Perfect, I thought. If Mozambique can't get rid of the land mines, the red flowers could at least warn people about dangerous ground. I'm assuming that the seeds can simply be thrown onto the soil from a safe distance (because digging holes and dropping in the seeds could be hazardous to one's health).

The genetically modified weed is the result of research by the Institute of Molecular Biology at Copenhagen University, which found that plants turned brown or red under stressful conditions.

The thale cress was selected because it grows fast, grows in a variety of climates (North and South Poles excluded), and has been extensively studied. Scientists altered the thale cress so that the color change would only take effect within 3-6 weeks of being planted in the presence of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), which is released by explosives buried underground.

Pollution cleaner, too

The mine-detecting plants haven't been tested under field conditions yet, although some experiments have had them growing in soil laced with TNT. Simon Oestergaard, Aresa's CEO, hopes to have it in the market by 2006.

In the meantime, Aresa has other plans for the thale cress, genetically modifying some of them to detect and clean soil polluted by heavy metals such as lead and copper. The heavy metal plants probably won't be in the market until much later though.

About 75 nations have land mines, among them Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia. Aresa uses US State Department figures showing that for every 100,000 land mines removed annually, 2.5 million more are planted every year.

Aresa should have enough customers to keep it in business for quite a while. The plants won't be able to get rid of the land mines, but at least they can prevent more deaths and injuries.

GM weeds won't spread

The thale cress plants have also been genetically altered so that the weed can't spread out and take over surrounding areas after it is planted. Bearing in mind the story of "Jurassic Park," and considering the ongoing controversy in Mexico about genetically engineered corn that managed to mix with wild corn, I'm going to have to meet that last claim with skepticism.

In the book "The Wizard of Oz" (I haven't seen the movie for quite some time so I can't remember if it happens there, too), Dorothy walks into a field of red poppies and is drugged by the flowers' scent. Luckily the Scarecrow and the Tin Man can't smell and they rescue her from eternal sleep.

In two years we may be able to talk about how red thale cress flowers warn people of dangerous ground ahead. Hopefully by then scientists will have come up with cheap and safe ways to dispose of land mines so that Mozambique and other nations will be able to rebuild and prosper.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com

THE THALE cress weed could soon be instrumental in detecting land mines. The flower turns red in the presence of buried explosives.

Reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ROME—We see them everywhere: middle-aged, a little on the plump side, with borderline to elevated blood pressure (BP), cholesterol abnormalities and blood sugar problems. Many appear to be in the pink of health.

But little do they realize that they have an increased risk of cardiovascular complications like heart attack or stroke. Some call them "walking time bombs."

You may still be able to play a round of golf or a fast game of badminton, but if you have three of the above criteria for metabolic syndrome (MS), it's best to reschedule your appointments and see your doctor immediately to check if you have MS.

More than a thousand heart experts gathered in this beautiful city this week to discuss new insights on MS, hypertension or insulin syndrome, and effective interventions to control them.

They discussed this frequently missed life-threatening disease called by some as syndrome X. Because it's frequently undetected, it's threatening to become the worst epidemic man has ever known, with millions of life at stake.

Association with CVD

According to Prof. Prakash Deedwania, chief of cardiology at the University of California, there is a strong association between MS and cardiovascular disease (CVD). Insulin resistance (IR) has also been linked to other cardiovascular problems such as hypertension, cholesterol abnormalities and enhanced blood clotting.

A doctor can suspect IR, and possibly MS, when the patient is overweight, has blood sugar abnormalities (impaired fasting glucose or abnormal glucose tolerance), borderline to high BP and cholesterol problems (low good cholesterol and high triglycerides).

It is a challenge for physicians to be able to detect these "walking time bombs" and "deactivate" them early enough before they develop a life-threatening cardiovascular complications.

Another world-renowned heart expert, Prof. Stevo Julius, the Hutwell professor of hypertension at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said physicians, when treating a hypertensive patient, should not be fixated on elevated BP alone. The BP is just part and parcel of the bigger syndrome of MS or IR.

Two potent hormones which are elevated among hypertensive patients are angiotensin II and norepinephrine or adrenaline. These are the culprits behind all sorts of complications in vital organs including cardiac hypertrophy (heart enlargement), kidney failure, blood vessel thickening and the tendency of the blood to clot inside the blood vessel, leading to impaired circulation.

Professor Julius emphasized the importance of controlling these hormones in treating hypertension.

He also explained that one should not only take an antihypertensive drug simply to lower the BP. He discussed the concept of "BP lowering plus"—referring to the additional beneficial effects of some drugs beyond BP-lowering.

This is now being tested in a large-scale research called the Value Trial, evaluating the effectiveness of the drug valsartan compared to another antihypertensive drug amlodipine in high-risk patients with high BP. This will answer an important clinical question whether drugs have "value-added" effects aside from their main indications.

The value-added benefits, which the trial is aiming to show, may be related to its anti-inflammatory effects. There is accumulating evidence that atherosclerosis, where blood vessels get clogged causing heart attacks, strokes and other disabling complications, can also be due to some form of swelling or inflammation.

Inflammation is also implicated in insulin resistance. Until about a decade ago, heart experts have limited IR to diabetes, but now it has been linked to high blood pressure and atherosclerosis.

By detecting inflammatory markers through a simple blood test, patients at high risk for a heart attack and other complications may be identified months or years before they succumb to these potentially fatal cardiovascular complications.

Pharmaceutical grant

The Philippine delegation to the symposium included Doctors Danilo Kuizon, May Ann Lao and Leny Iboleon-Dy of St. Luke's Heart Institute, Bong Javier and Noel Rosas of the Makati Medical Center, Froilan de Leon of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and Jo Padua of Novartis.

The symposium was organized through a grant from Novartis Healthcare International, which beefed up its research arm with a new billion-dollar facility in the United States headed by noted Japanese molecular scientist Prof. Seigo Izumo.

Patients or potential patients who have risk factors of metabolic syndrome can attend the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid Society lay forum this afternoon. It's on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, text the secretariat (c/o Weng) at 0919-4260905.

New HYPERTENSION Classification Affects Millions

By Willie T. Ong, MD

Medical tradition has long taught that a blood pressure of 120 over 80 millimeters mercury is normal. What could be more normal than 120 over 80? But if we are to believe the recently released Seventh Joint National Committee Classification of High Blood Pressure (JNC-7), a BP of 120 over 80 is now classified as pre-hypertensive. What does this mean? And how did the classification get to be this low?

History of Hypertension Classification

Ever since Scipione Riva-Rocci first measure the blood pressure in 1896 using a prototype sphygmomanometer, people have been fascinated on what these numbers mean. The first number, the systolic BP refers to the pressure that the heart exerts during contraction. The second number, called the diastolic BP pertains to the pressure inside the heart at rest. At that time, the BP was treated like a horoscope and any BP was alright.

Then, in the heels of the scientific studies of the 1970s, doctors lowered the normal cut-off to 160/90. However, the consensus was that elderly patients with such a BP may not need treatment yet.

By the early 1990s, further studies elaborated that the normal blood pressure should be less than 140/90 mm Hg regardless of age. Then in 1997, the Sixth JNC was released and a blood pressure of 130-139 over 85-89 was now labeled as "high normal." For patients with diabetes, drug treatment can be started even at such lower BP's.

New Hypertension Classification Announced

The Philippine Heart Association (PHA) has long been regarded as the experts with regard to heart disease for the past 51 years. In a meeting of the PHA Council of Hypertension, Chairman Dr. Jose Antonio Bautista discussed the implications of the Seventh Joint National committee Classification. Other members of the Hypertension Council are Drs. May Donato-Tan, Jorge Sison, Antonio Punzalan, Aristides G. Panlilio, Amelia Nalundasan, and Ed Buan.

According to Dr. Bautista, the JNC-7 effectively classifies a systolic BP of 120-139 or diastolic BP of 80-89 as pre-hypertensive. This could encompass half the world's population. The authors of JNC-7 have used this term to prompt and awaken those with such a BP to practice a healthier lifestyle. Other terms such as high normal or slightly high BP would only be shrugged off by the patient and not given any attention.

The JNC-7 classifies those with hypertension as follows. A person has mild hypertension if systolic BP is between 140 to 159 mm Hg or the diastolic BP is between 90 to 99 mm Hg. These cases may still respond to a change in lifestyle: (a) lose weight, (b) exercise, (c) reduce salt and fat intake, (d) stop smoking, and (e) limit alcohol intake.

By contrast, the more serious label of moderate to severe hypertension refers to a systolic BP higher than 160 mm Hg or a diastolic BP greater than 100 mm Hg. Those critical elevations of blood pressure make one susceptible to a stroke or heart attack, hence treatment with medications and lifestyle change are needed.

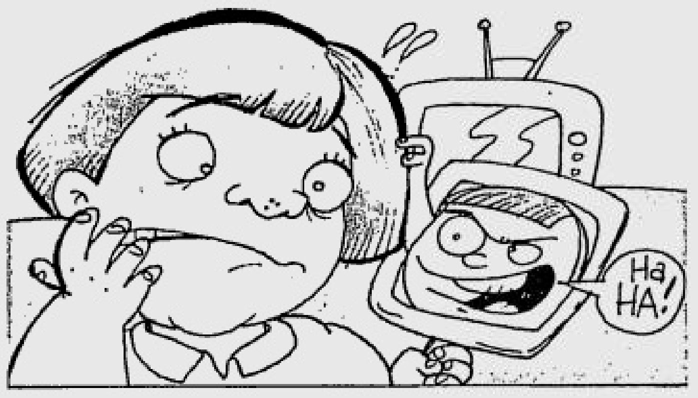
Implications of "pre-hypertension"

At first glance, one is suspicious about the term pre-hypertensive, which connotes that it may just be a matter of time before you become hypertensive. The word prompts comparison to "pre-diabetic" or "pre-cancerous", which suggest a certain inevitability and hopelessness.

In the Philippines, the prevalence of high blood pressure is at 21% during the last FNRI study. A newer study might further increase the percentage to 27% and we really need to get our act together to abate this growing epidemic. The new hypertension classification reminds us that no one is safe from a stroke or a heart attack. I guess no BP is safe after all. And that's coming from one pre-hypertensive to another.

(Dr. Willie T. Ong is a fellow of the Philippine College of Cardiology and a member of the PHA Council of Hypertension. E-mail comments to willietong@netasia.net)

**PHA can be reached at hhouse@mydestiny.net
or secretariat@philheart.org
website: www.philheart.org**



Accord on mental illness reportage

By Claire Agbayani
Contributor

IN THE PHILIPPINES like elsewhere in the world, media tends to paint a negative picture of people with mental illness. More often than not, "mad" people are portrayed as bad.

When a mentally-ill person commits an act of violence, he is identified according to his mental condition. The stigma is such that having a child, parent or sibling who has a mental condition is enough to warrant taunts from other people.

"The stigma sticks to you and stays with you forever," said World Psychiatric Association president Norman Sartorius, a consultant of the World Health Organization (WHO), during an interview with members of the press during the 30th annual convention of the Philippine Psychiatric Association at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel last week.

Sartorius is the primary proponent of an international campaign to fight the stigma against mental illness.

While "bad" people are evil and should be punished, Sartorius said "many individuals who are mad are not bad at all."

He cites headlines like "Schizophrenic kills mother" as if it were schizophrenia itself that makes a person kill. He quipped, "You don't read headlines like 'Pneumonic person kills mother.'"

Perpetuating myths

PPA public relations officer Dr. Lou Querubin said that "instead of helping educate the public about mental health and mental illness, media sometimes further perpetuates myths, such as those who are mentally disabled are violent."

She said stories about such acts are usually lumped together with stories on murders, rubouts and drug busts. She hopes these stories will eventually "get out of those pages."

Sartorius said it is very painful for anybody who's had a mental illness to read headlines attributing a violent act to the illness. In fact, he said, people who are mentally ill are often victims of abuse.

"They are mocked, beaten up, thrown out into the streets. They are defenseless. If they become aggressive at all, it is because they are treated or handled in a bad way," he said.

First in Asia

Sartorius hailed the agreement forged last week by the PPA with media (represented by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) to follow guidelines regarding the treatment of subjects of mental illness during coverage and interviews.

"It's the first of its kind in Asia," Sartorius said.

Querubin said that while the guidelines are admittedly "broad strokes," representatives of media have signified their willingness "to sit down and help draft the implementing guidelines on a more concrete level."

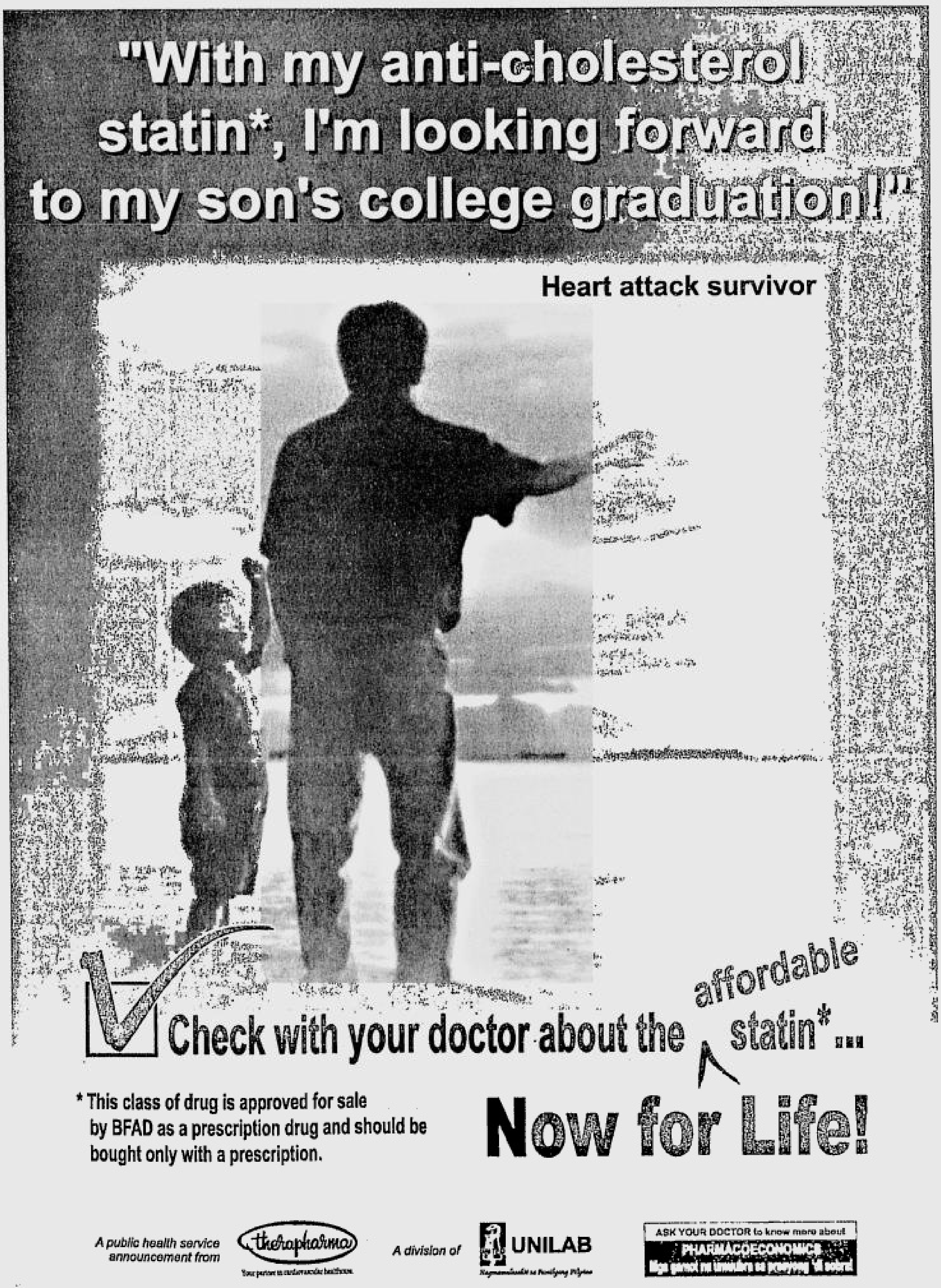
Anti-stigma campaign

Sartorius said there is a lot of media interest in mental illness, unfortunately most media people do not really know what mental illness is.

He cited a successful program in Germany which began in 1998 where a special office with an anti-stigma campaign was established. From this office, journalists could acquire correct information they need quickly and for free.

He said the objective of the bureau was "not to reduce information but to make it more precise and closer to the truth." This turned out to be helpful for everybody.

An examination of the recent issues of papers revealed that "reporting has changed," he said.


"With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to my son's college graduation!"
Heart attack survivor
Check with your doctor about the affordable statin*...
Now for Life!

* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

A public health service announcement from therapharma
A division of UNILAB
ASK YOUR DOCTOR to know more about PHARMACOECONOMICS

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Free SIM swap from Touch Mobile

TOUCH Mobile, the family-oriented value brand of Globe Telecom with over 1.6 million satisfied subscribers, has introduced its nationwide Free SIM Swap program, an exciting new offer which now allows users of other mobile phone brands to easily switch to Touch Mobile absolutely free.

The Free SIM Swap is the latest in a series of value-plus offerings from the country's leading family-value cellular brand. The Touch Mobile Free SIM Swap is available at all Globe Telecom Business Centers, exclusive Touch Mobile distributors and retailers, selected supermarkets and shopping malls nationwide. Customers simply surrender their non-Touch Mobile or non-Globe Handyphone SIM card and they will receive a Touch Mobile Super Family 64k SIM Pack absolutely free.

Touch Mobile SIM packs and prepaid reloads are available at a host of traditional and non-traditional outlets, ranging from dealer shops to supermarkets to mobile stores and even sari-sari stores. Its prepaid load values can be purchased at these same stores in the traditional plastic call card form, or via Share-A-Load, Family Autoload, Autoload Max, bank ATM's, E-POS terminals and online on the World Wide Web.

By SIM swapping for free to Touch Mobile, subscribers can enjoy the brand's pioneering P 5.50 per minute rate on their calls to other Touch Mobile numbers, and only P6.50 per minute on calls to non-Touch Mobile numbers. Plus they get the benefit of the brand's proven nationwide coverage, which is backed by the extensive Globe Telecom cellular network.

Switchers to Touch Mobile will also gain access to the many valuable services that the brand offers. They will now be able to send load credits directly to other Touch Mobile and even Globe Handyphone prepaid and postpaid subscribers thru the Share-A-Load service. They can earn extra income by selling prepaid Touch Mobile reloads thru the Family Autoload service, even earning as much as P14 per P100 transaction.

They can easily and affordably exchange photos with their loved ones through the MMS Photo Messaging; and they can get and share useful tips from the Home Info Text service, including data on family-centered topics such as First Aid, Family Care Tips, Family Entertainment, Recipes and Job Information.

With all of its exciting and affordable options offered to its subscribers, it is clear that Touch Mobile has emerged as the best-value choice for Filipino families who always want to be connected, even when they are apart.

PDI OFFICERS GRACE MINI STOP 100TH STORE OPENING

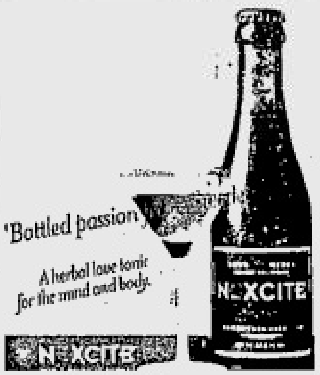
Key PDI circulation officers recently graced the formal opening of the 100th Mini Stop store located at the ground floor of the Centerpoint Bldg along Julio Vargas Avenue in Ortigas with Robinsons Convenience Store Inc president Lance Gokongwei cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Others in photo are (from left) PDI field supervisor Resty Lee, PDI AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal; Mini Stop merchandising manager Ana Chua; Mini Stop business unit group head John Robert Go Jr.; Lance Gokongwei; PDI SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso; Mini Stop general manager Willy Camarillo and PDI circulation manager for sales and promotions Bien Baltazar.

INDUCTION OF FINEX OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Shown is the induction of Finex officers and directors by Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Rosales at the Hotel Intercon, Makati City last Jan. 14. The theme of the event was: Responding to the Challenges of Good Governance. From left are: president Franklin Ysaac, EVP David Balangue, VP Grace Tiongco, VP Melito Salazar, VP, Esther Magleo, VP Omar Cruz, VP Ramon Opulencia, Treasurer Norie Bordador, Corp Sec Gaudencio Hernandez, Directors Ronnie Alcantara, George Chua, Rosalinda Pasco, Luis Liwanag, Benito Soliven, Ex Officio Director Edgardo Limon. Not in photo Director Jose Osana.

FLINTSTONES & THE GANG

Dubbed as a retro 'party band', Flintstones & The Gang is composed of former musicians and singers during the 60s and 70s. Collectively, Flintstones showcases more than 30 years of musical experience among its members. Catch them every Tuesday at Conway's Bar Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Wednesdays at Amoeba Music Recall in Eastwood City and Thursdays at Chef & Brewer Ortigas Ave. Celebrate your Valentine with the Flintstones at the Summer Garden, Tagaytay Highlands on Feb. 14 and at Pension Roma, Tuguegarao City on Feb. 13 for the benefit of Saint Claire Convent. For inquiries, call Manuel Luis Fernando at 411-29-39 and at 0918-99-11-995.



An herbal love tonic for the sensual mind and body

NEXCITE is a sparkling clear and blue lightly carbonated beverage imported from Sweden with energizing, exhilarating herbal ingredients that have been known for centuries to enhance vitality. It includes Damiana, the "love herb". Once consumed, the effects are almost instantaneous. Nexcite has been one of the most popular love tonics in Europe since its launch. The beverage is widely enjoyed by both sexes. The red rabbit logo symbolizes everything vital, primal and exciting about the impulse of passion. It is distributed by Dream Concepts Int'l Trading located at Suite 14 Legaspi Towers 300, Malate Manila with tel. nos. 522-5733 and 536-3182.

Las Piñas doctors hold cultural night

THE LAS Piñas Medical Society Choir (LPMS) composed of doctors and some friends from Las Piñas will be part of the First LPMS Cultural Night, a fund-raising activity of the LPMS headed by its current president, Dr. Danilo Constantino. The concert which will showcase 4 choral groups including the LPMS choir, 4 dance groups, solo performers and a band, will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at the Insular Life Corporate Center Auditorium, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Tickets are available from any LPMS member or call Digna at 874-8515 local 471.

Trinity College 41st Foundation Day

DR. JOSEFINA S. Sumaya, President of Trinity College of Quezon City recently returned from a successful meeting of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (Cuac) held in North Carolina. She was made member of the board of directors and corresponding secretaries of the prestigious organization. Sumaya represented Trinity College, the only school from the Philippines admitted by the Cuac, a non-profit organization founded in 1993 for member-colleges worldwide which have a historic or present ties with the Episcopal church or any branch of the Anglican Communion. Trinity College which is celebrating its 41st Foundation Day Anniversary from February 2-7 is a direct beneficiary of such assistance from Cuac.

JRRMMC medical education activities

THE DEPARTMENT of Dermatology of Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) announced two major continuing medical education activities for February. A Basic Dermatologic Surgery Workshop will be conducted on Feb. 18, at the hospital's OPD Conference Room. On Feb. 19 to 20, the Seventh Postgraduate Course in Dermatology will be held at the Quezon City Sports Complex on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Registration fee are: Workshop - P1,500 inclusive of basic instrumentation kit, lunch, snacks and workbooks. Postgraduate course - P800 (residents) and P1000 (non-residents) until Feb. 7. On-site registration - P1000 (residents) and P1200 (non-residents). For further details, please contact Dr. Vesna Castillo or Denise Grageda at 7116703/ 7119491 loc 336/334 or 09178178883.

Cavite's new landmark

A NEW landmark boasting of a shopping mall, commercial establishments and prime residential living will soon rise in the country's biggest industrial melting pot. Located in Rosario, Cavite, Costa Verde will be erected just across the Cavite Export Processing Zone Authority. Sta. Lucia Realty and Dev't Inc, Royale Homes Marketing Corp and The Philippine National Oil Co (PNOC) Management and Dev't Corp, have recently inked a joint venture contract to undertake the development of Costa Verde Commercial and Residential Estates. The grand open house and groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled on Feb. 7. Interested parties may call Royale Homes at (02) 723-4014 or 726-4205.

PLM grand reunion

CALLING all the graduates of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila. There will be a grand reunion on Feb. 7 and 8 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila, to be hosted by PLM Batch 68 Development Foundation and the PLM Scholars Foundation. Highlights include a gift-giving program, a Manila City Tour and a Fellowship-Dinner. Tickets are priced at P500. For details, you may contact Celia Francisco Gutierrez at (0917) 812-8515 or 631-1379 or the secretariat c/o Marj at (0927) 368-4327 or 926- 1443 or email at plmbatch68@yahoo.com.

San Mig Light Xtreme Island Race

RECENTLY concluded 2nd San Mig Light Xtreme Island Race, the country's biggest adventure expedition, took eight (8) teams of two, to race trough the breath taking terraces of Banaue, challenge the white waters of Kalinga and defy the rugged terrain of Pinatubo. Catch it every Sunday of February starting Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. on Solar Sports.

LSGH grand reunion

SilVerde Foundation, in cooperation with the La Salle Green Hills Alumni Association, presents "Silverde: Return to the Green" today, 4 p.m. at the La Salle Green Hills grounds in Ortigas Avenue. Silver anniversary celebrants Batch '79 hosts this year's grand reunion. featuring the best bands of LSGH performing the sounds of the 70's. Registration at the LSGHAA or call 721-2729/721-2000.

Clips

Admu's School of Mngt hosts AU9

ATENEO de Manila University's John Gokongwei School of Management together with the Asia-Europe Foundation (Asef) is very honored to host the 9th Asia-Europe Foundation University (AU9) from Feb. 1 to 14. About 38 senior undergraduates from 25 Asef member countries will visit the country to participate in the two week enrichment program consisting of a series of lectures and projects on Asia-Europe relations.

AFA's board meeting

THE GOVERNING council of the Asean Federation of Accountants (AFA) will holds its board meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel at Ayala Center on Feb. 7 and 8. AFA is a federation of all national accountancy bodies in Southeast Asia and their associates from other countries friendly to Asean. The executive board meeting shall be hosted by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) - the national accountancy body of the country. High on the federation's agenda are matters relating to corporate governance, and the detection and control of frauds. The accountancy leaders will be meeting on the backdrop of the big corporate anomalies being unearthed worldwide.

A Valentine Treat at Evercrest

FOR ALL lovers who wish to aim for the most romantic package this Valentines Day, simply avail of "A Valentine Treat at Evercrest". Only at P3,210++, the couple shall have the ultimate celebration of their life. Valid from Feb. 6 to 15, the package includes overnight stay in a deluxe room with breakfast in bed and set dinner for 2, plus fruit platter, welcome drink, a bottle of wine and red roses. Only 2 hours drive from Manila and 15 minutes away from Tagaytay, Evercrest Golf Club Resort is located at Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas. For reservations, call 733-3822, 733-9955 or 712-9293 to 98.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
FERNANDO CONSULTANTS
ASSOCIATES PHIL., INC.

SEC ADM. CASE No. 02-03-68
For: Revocation of Certificate
of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT
Petitoner.

x - x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:
MICHAEL A.D. FERNANDO
LOYDAS L. FERNANDO
MA. VICTORIA G. LOPEZ
MA. TERESITA L. NORTIGA
All at : 2188 Fortune Village #2, Felipe Suerte Street,
Valenzuela, Metro Manila
ARIDNA L. YADAO
Balangobong, Binalonan, Pangasinan

GREETINGS:

You are hereby summoned and required to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, within forty (40) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your answer to the PETITION, a copy of which is hereto reproduced, and to serve 2 copy of your answer within the same period, upon the Compliance and Enforcement Department of the Securities and Exchange Commission. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the PETITION.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines,
February 2, 2004.

(Sgd.) **VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO**
General Counsel

(PDI – February 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

A Century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and communication

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO)
OPERATE NON-SCHEDULED DOMESTIC)
AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES)
(AIR TAXI OPERATOR))
)
RIO TUBA NICKEL MINING CORPORATION,)
Applicant)

CAB CASE NO.
EP-24370

x--x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that RIO TUBA NICKEL MINING CORPORATION has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for authority to operate non-scheduled domestic air transportation services (air taxi operator) docketed as CAB Case No. EP-24370. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **17 February 2004** at **2:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the applicant shall present evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to publish this Notice of Hearing in a newspaper of general circulation at least five (5) days prior to 17 February 2004, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition thereto, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises.

Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the CAB will proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of the application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

15 January 2004,
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI--Jan. 24, 31 & Feb. 7, 2004)

Be part of the most awaited job fair of all

JOB WORLD 2004
Job Fair
A world of job opportunities for
ALL industry sectors
Incorporating
THE CALL CENTER JOB FAIR 2004

BE AN EXHIBITOR NOW!
(Free print ad and web ad placement for exhibitors)
Call 812 9099 or 812 3973 for details

Organized by:
NeoTrade
ENTERPRISES

April 2 and 3, 2004
PICC Forum
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd.
Pasay City, Manila

REPLY FORM ☐ YES! I am interested to join
Please FAX this form to:
NEO TRADE ENTERPRISES
Fax No: [illegible]
Email: [illegible]

Please reserve ________ booth(s)
Contact Person: ________
Title: ________
Company/Organization: ________
Main Line of Business: ________
Tel Nos: ________ Fax Nos.: ________
Signature: ________

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

AMENDED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS ON PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 10, 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Present :

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman	
LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner	term expired Feb. 02, 2004
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner	
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner	
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner	
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner	
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.	Commissioner	

Promulgated :

RESOLUTION NO. 6420-A.

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's ruling pertaining to Phase II (the Automated Counting and Canvassing Project) of the Commission's Comprehensive Electoral Modernization Program ("Modernization Program") has left the Commission no choice but to revert to the manual system of elections.

WHEREAS, since the Commission is reverting to the manual system elections, there is now a need to amend certain dates in the Calendar of Activities contained in Resolution No. 6420 promulgated on 25 November 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code (B.P. Blg. 881), Republic Acts No. 6646, 7166, 8189, 8436, 9189 and other pertinent elections laws, **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to amend Resolution No. 6420 promulgated on 25 November 2003 in connection with the May 10, 2004 national and local elections:

DATE/PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
July 25, 2003 (Friday) to August 5, 2003 (Tuesday)	Registration of voters in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	
August 4, 2003 (Monday) to October 31, 2003 (Friday)	Registration of voters in Iligan City, Cotabato City, Zamboanga City and the National Capital Region	
August 18, 2003 (Monday) to November 9, 2003 (Sunday)	Registration of voters in other areas	
August 4, 2003 (Monday) to December 12, 2003 (Friday)	Validation of Voters in Iligan City, Cotabato City, Zamboanga City and the National Capital Region	
August 18, 2003 (Monday) to December 12, 2003 (Friday)	Validation of Voters in other areas except ARMM	
August 1, 2003 (Saturday) to September 30, 2003 (Friday)	Registration for overseas absentee voters (Res. No. 6183 OAV 26 May 2003)	
September 30, 2003 (Tuesday)	Last day to file petition for Registration of Parties/Sectoral Groups.	
Not earlier than November 7, 2003 (Friday)	Party convention to select and nominate official candidates for all positions.	
December 15, 2003 (Monday) to **January 5, 2004 (Monday)**	Filing of certificates of candidacy and nomination for national and local positions in all areas.	
December 15, 2003 (Monday) to **June 9, 2004 (Wednesday)** (147 days before election and 30 days thereafter)	**ELECTION PERIOD**	Alteration of territory of a precinct or establishment of a new precinct (Sec. 5, RA 8189). Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32, R.A. No. 7166; Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service. (Sec. 261 (h) OEC); Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces. (Sec. 261 (u) OEC). Use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates, whether or not such bodyguards are regular members or officers of the PNP or AFP or other law enforcement agency (Sec. 261 (t), OEC, as amended by Sec. 33, RA 7166) Suspension of any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officials (Sec. 261 (x), OEC)
January 11, 2004 (Sunday)	Last day to file Manifestation to Participate in the Party List Election.	
January 31, 2004 (Monday)	Last day to constitute the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group **for Overseas Absentee Voting**	
Up to midday of May 10, 2004 (Monday) Election Day	**Last day for substitution of candidates for all positions.**	
March 1, 2004 (Monday)	Last day for appointment of members of the Special Boards of Election Inspectors of overseas absentee voting.	
March 16, 2004 (Tuesday)	Last day for appointment of members of the Boards of Election Inspectors subject to changes on account of lack of public school teachers and disqualifications due to relationships to candidates. (Sec. 164, OEC, in relation to Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
Anytime up to January 26, 2004 (Monday)	**Filing of petitions for inclusion of qualified voters in the List with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Courts for those whose applications for registration have been disapproved or whose names have been stricken out from the list of the Election Registration Board.**	
Anytime up to January 31, 2004 (Saturday)	**Filing of petitions for exclusion of non-qualified registrants.**	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) (90 days before election day)	Posting of certified list of voters. (Report 1B) (Sec 30, RA 8189)	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) to May 08, 2004 (Saturday) (90 days before election)	Campaign period for President, Vice President and Senators (Sec 5, RA 7166), and political parties, organizations or coalitions participating under the party list system (Sec. 4 RA 7941) both in the Philippines and abroad.	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) to May 10, 2004 (Monday)		Giving of donations or gift in cash or in kind, etc. (Sec. 104, OEC)
March 10, 2004 (Tuesday) to **March 12, 2004 (Thursday)**	Notice of inspection and verification of completeness of the Voter Registration Records for each precinct compiled in the book of voters.	
March 11, 2004 (Thursday) to June 10, 2004 (Thursday) (60 days before election and thirty (30) days thereafter)		Illegal release of prisoners. (Sec. 261 (n) OEC)
March 13, 2004 (Saturday) to April 10, 2004 (Wednesday)	Conduct of verification and inspection of completeness of book of voters (Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
March 25, 2004 (Thursday) to May 08, 2004 (Saturday) (45 days before election)	Campaign period for members of the House of Representatives and elective provincial, city and municipal officials (Sec 3, OEC; and Sec. 11, RA 8436)	
March 26, 2004 (Friday)	Last day to submit nominees in the Party List	
March 26, 2004 (Friday)	Last day for heads of all reaction forces, strike forces or similar forces to submit to the Commission a complete list of all members thereof with such particulars as the Commission may require (Sec. 261 (u), OEC)	
March 26, 2004 (Friday) to May 09, 2004 (Sunday) (45 days before election)		Appointment or hiring of new employees. Sec. 261(g) OEC); Creation and filling up of new positions. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); Absolute prohibition with out exemption on promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development. (Sec. 261 (v) OEC); Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds.(Sec. 261 (w) OEC).
April 8, 2004 (Maundy Thursday) to April 9, 2004 (Good Friday)		Campaigning
April 10, 2004 (Saturday) (30 days before election)	Last day to furnish every registered voter with a Voter's Information Sheet which contains voters name, address, precinct, place where he is registered and simplified instructions as to casting of votes, an official sample ballot, and list of all registered national, provincial and city candidates to be voted in the election. (Sec. 1, RA 7904)	
Not later than April 25, 2004 (Sunday)	Constitution of the Municipal/ City/ District Provincial and Special Board of Canvassers. (See Resolution No. 6325)	
May 08, 2004 (Saturday)	Last day of campaigning for all positions	
May 9, 2004 (Sunday) EVE OF ELECTION DAY		Campaigning (Sec. 3 OEC) Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC). Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC)
May 09, 2004 (Sunday) to May 10, 2004 (Monday)		Campaigning (Sec. 5, R.A. 7166)
May 10, 2004 (Monday)	**ELECTION DAY**	Campaigning (Sec.3 OEC) Soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within a radius of thirty meters thereof. Sec. 261 (cc) (6). Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC). Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC) Voting more than once or in substitution of another (Sec. 261 (z)(2)and (3) OEC) Holding of fairs, cockfights, horse races or similar sports. (Sec.261 (dd) (3) OEC Opening of booths or stalls for the sale, etc. of merchandise, refreshments within (30) meters radius from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd)(2)OEC)
	CASTING OF VOTES	
On any day starting March 12, 2004 (host country time up to 3:00 o'clock PM of 10 May 2004. (Philippine Time) (Art 34, Comelec Resolution No. 6117 dated 14 May 2003	For overseas seafarers who are registered voters under RA 9189. (Overseas Absentee Voting Act)	
On any day starting from April 11, 2004 (host country time up to 3:00 o'clock PM of May 10, 2004. (Philippine Time) (Art 34, Comelec Resolution No. 6117 dated 14 May 2003	For overseas land based registered voters under RA 9189 and Resolution No. 6325.	
May 10, 2004 (Monday) (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM)	For registered voters in the Philippines.	
May 10, 2004 (Monday) (6:00 PM)	Convening of City/Municipal/ District/Provincial, and Special Boards of Canvassers	
May 11, 2004 (Tuesday) to **June 9, 2004 (Wednesday)**	Filing of sworn statements of election contributions and expenditures (Sec. 14, RA 7166)	

If it shall no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other period and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage (Sec 28, RA 8436).

Comelec Resolution No. 6420 promulgated on November 25, 2003 and all other previous resolutions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this resolution are hereby amended or superceded accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Director, Education and Information Department, this Commission, shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall furnish copies thereof to all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, Election Officers and all Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies deputized by the Commission.

Let the Executive Director implement this Resolution under the direction of the Chairman.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

Term expired as of Feb. 7, 2004
LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

Term expired as of Feb. 7, 2004
RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – February 7, 2004)

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Dynamic real estate company goes for the young market

A relatively newcomer in the real estate industry, Community Innovations Inc. (CII), is drawing a wealth of experience in development and residential planning from the country's largest property developer, Ayala Land- and has achieved remarkable results in less than two years.

CII, which has secured early on a solid reputation in the industry, came into being when Ayala Land decided to depart from its established niches in the upscale market and focus its sights on the younger urban residential segment.

CII has been set up to address the needs and aspirations of a new class of young urban achievers and introduce to them a level of integrity, vision and quality that's comparable to upscale residential developments. CII enjoys the distinct advantage of drawing upon the experience, strategies and resources of its parent company, with room to develop its flexibility and novel approaches to address the needs and requirements of its target market.

Young urban achievers are mostly composed of upcoming executives, professionals and entrepreneurs, young married couples building their careers and driven by their aspirations. They are image conscious yet practical in their investments, and have a steady income stream that affords them a comfortable lifestyle.

"One of the biggest strengths of CII is the Ayala name. It is the public's guarantee that we are meeting the Ayala standards in terms of the market we're addressing. We feel that's the ingredient to a very successful development, coupled with our years of experience in dealing with the market," explained Jonathan Umali, Project Development Head of Community Innovations.

Under the leadership of Ayala Land, CII is able to develop and implement the renewed concept of "community living," an infusion of the latest trends in residential development that brings about a revived sense of gracious living, neighborliness, and humanistic values within a prime neighborhood.

"What we're trying to do is follow the footsteps of Ayala Land, creating communities and not just typical subdivisions," said Umali. "And it's supposed to be a sustained development such that, one way or another, the basic needs, as well as the aspirations, of the future residents will be met. Our Ayala heritage is your guarantee that Verdana Homes will remain a beautiful community long after the last lot has been sold."

The concept of "community living" has already borne fruit in CII's first project, Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite, where the company embarked on the idea of providing a well-planned, quality community for young urban achievers and their families. Located several kilometers from the upscale Ayala Alabang community, the first Verdana Homes offered both lots and house-and-lots designed in a relaxed Mexican-Californian architecture encircling a 1.4 hectare park featuring an extensive array of amenities in well-manicured landscapes.

The project was so successful, the units within this 23-hectare residential sprawl sold out within few months from its launch. To complement the Verdana Homes residential community, Verdana Village Center, a 1.8 hectare commercial strip was launched soon afterwards. After completing another successful venture, the high-rise condominium project called The Columns in Ayala Avenue, Makati, CII has now extended the Verdana Homes brand with a new subdivision, Verdana Homes Mamplasan.

According to Umali, "We've always tried to inject new trends, new concepts, especially in our latest Verdana Homes project. Since most of us here at CII are young and dynamic, we were really able to put ourselves in the shoes of our target market and build a community that incorporates all the ideals we look for. These ideals involve our three main areas of consideration: location, amenities and affordability."

At 35 hectares, this latest development is destined to outshine other similar residential projects in terms of design, location, concept, amenities, and other factors, intended as it is to be the gateway to the Ayala South, the hub of an expanding educational, commercial, as well as residential community in Laguna.

> One of the biggest strengths of CII is the Ayala name. It is the public's guarantee that we are meeting the Ayala standards in terms of the market we're addressing.

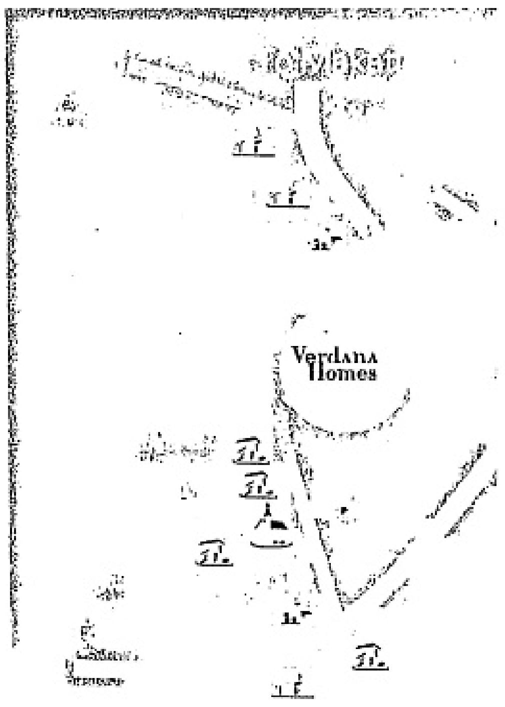
AT THE GRAND LAUNCHING OF TOWER 3 OF THE COLUMNS, AYALA AVENUE LAST JANUARY23 AT GREENBELT 3 PARK.

CII PRESIDENT - Angela de Villa-Lacson and host Chinggay Andrada.

Verdana Homes

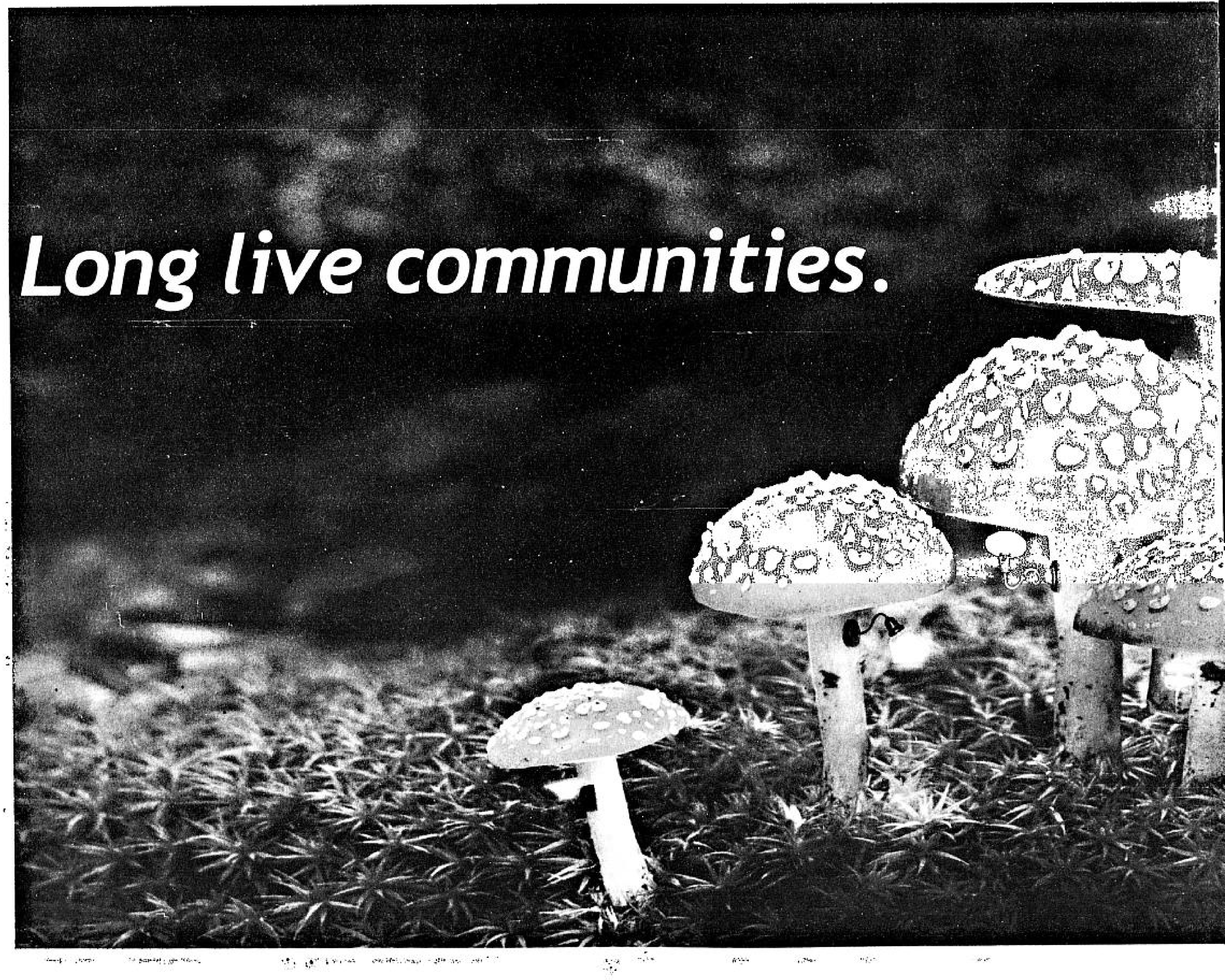
Ide

As more bu
parks, par



AERIAL VIEW of central park - Take a gander at our 2-hectare Asian Balinese inspired central park

---


Long live communities.

HLURB License to Sell No. 09198-R4A-04-02 Call tel. nos. 750-0484, 750-0471 and 849-0551, e-mail us at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more info

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

al living at the gateway to Ayala South

sinesses begin to thrive in the South, the region surges with the most promising developments in real estate. Commercial and industrial hotspots and other business ticularly in Laguna and Cavite areas, entice a growing number of families to work and live in this spacious, progressive area of Greater Mega Manila.

While it may be great to have a community that's near the workplace and other commercial establishments, other factors must also be given priority. Residents must be safe and secure, facilities must be dependable, overall design must be aesthetically pleasing, and amortization costs must be within reach.

This is the reason why Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land subsidiary, has extended its successful Verdana Homes brand to the rising community in Biñan, Laguna.

Designed for young urban achievers and startup families, Verdana Homes Mamplasan features all the upscale living comforts equaling those of upscale residential communities, without the upscale pricing. The project is located at the gateway of the Ayala South, the hub of an expanding complex of commercial centers, industrial parks, educational and religious institutions, as well as other prime residential villages and leisure getaways being developed by Ayala Land.

'In the development of our latest Verdana Homes project, we're making no compromises in terms of design, security and amenities," explained Jonathan Umali, Project Development Head of Community Innovations. "Our passion lies in building intelligently-planned and meticulously designed communities for the young market, enabling them to enjoy the kind of lifestyle that's unlike those in more congested sites. Verdana is carefully planned like other Ayala properties; nevertheless they are more affordable. Our Ayala heritage is your guarantee that Verdana will remain a beautiful community long after the last lot has been sold."

CII defines young urban achievers as upcoming executives, professionals and entrepreneurs, mostly young married couples building their careers and driven by their aspirations. They are image conscious yet practical in their investments, and have a steady income stream that affords them a comfortable lifestyle.

Those working around the area are the most ideal candidates for relocating to Verdana Homes Mamplasan, especially when they consider the fact that the subdivision is only around 12 km. away from the booming, upscale Ayala Alabang and Filinvest towns, and around 30 km. from Makati City.The development can be accessed from the Mamplasan exit of South Luzon Expressway through a spine road which is currently under construction. This 60-meter wide thoroughfare. It will be the main access road to the Ayala South.

Residents can enjoy the project's proximity to existing prime educational facilities like Brent School, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica's College, De La Salle University, La Consolacion, College of the Holy Spirit, Colegio de San Agustin and soon Xavier School and the University of Asia & Pacific. Likewise, it is near commercial areas such as Paseo de Sta. Rosa, Robinsons,Pavilion Mall and Alabang Town Center.

Furthermore, those who wish to unwind can easily hie off to leisure hideaways like Tagaytay, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, and the beaches of Cavite and Batangas. Meanwhile, for those holding jobs in Industrial parks such as the Laguna Technopark (LTI), Madrigal Business Park, and the Laguna International Industrial Park (LIIP), it means mere precious minutes spent traveling to and from work.

What further elevates Verdana Homes Mamplasan from other developments of its class is the soothing Asian-Balinese architecture that imparts a sense of wonder and exclusivity. Such choice of a tranquil and timeless design adds to the feeling of coming to a private resort, relaxing the senses starting from the gates all the way to one's home.

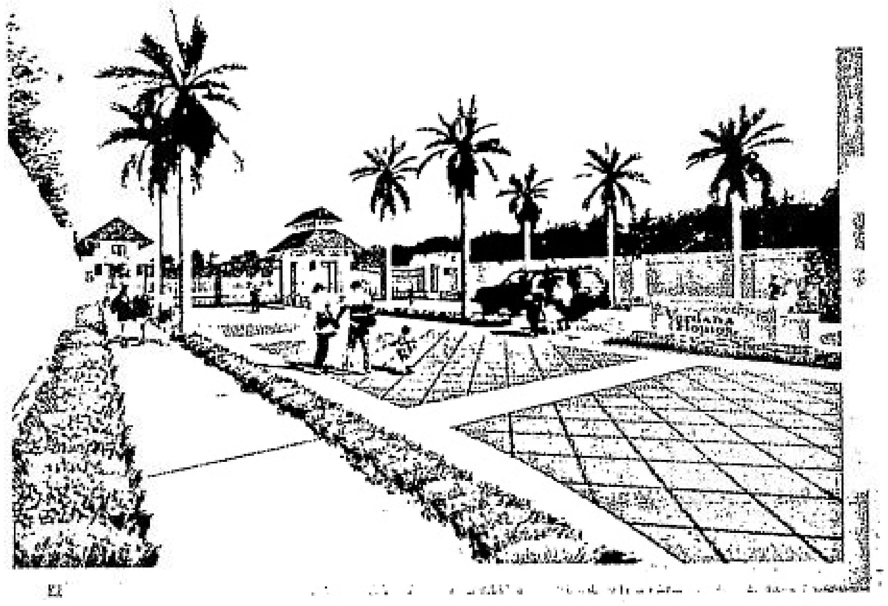
On top of that is the lavish 2 hectare Central Park where residents can converge and commune with each other and with nature. Distinct "zones" have been especially apportioned to simultaneously allow children, teens and adults and to conduct their different activities. These zones are: The Clubhouse Zone with multi-function area, air-conditioned function room, 25-m lap pool and children's pool; the Children's Play Zone with a large gazebo, toddlers' bike/scooter/skating trails, playing field and playground with play equipment; the Sports Zone with basketball and covered badminton courts, jogging and biking trail, and multi-purpose open field; and the Leisure Zone with picnic grounds, park benches, footbridges, and pocket parks. Everything is surrounded by a unified landscape inspired by the overall Asian-Balinese theme.

Plus, a team of experts under the Ayala Property Management Corp., the same group that manages all Ayala-owned and - developed condominiums, malls, and other properties, ensures the long term upkeep of the whole setting.

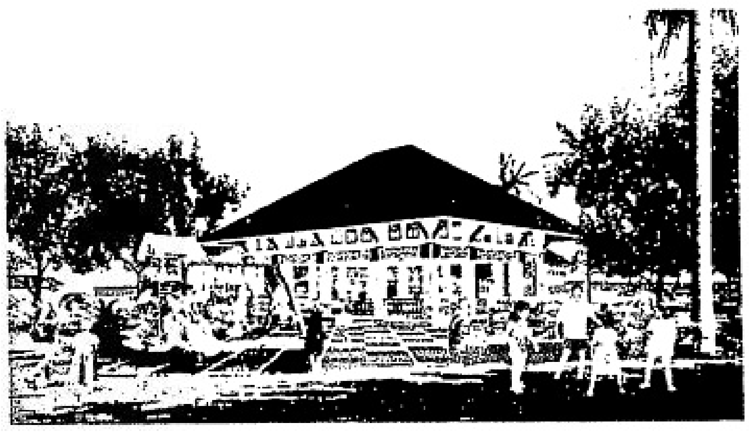
The entire subdivision has lot cuts ranging from 180 sqm. to 500 sqm. with most lots having a size of 200 sqm. Divided into two phases, Verdana Homes Mamplasan further promotes individual interaction through the creation of "sub-neighborhoods," wherein residents enjoy their own private looped areas to enhance their sense of ownership and security.

For inquiries, please call 7500484 / 7500471 or 8490551 or visit our website at www.communityinnovations.com.ph.

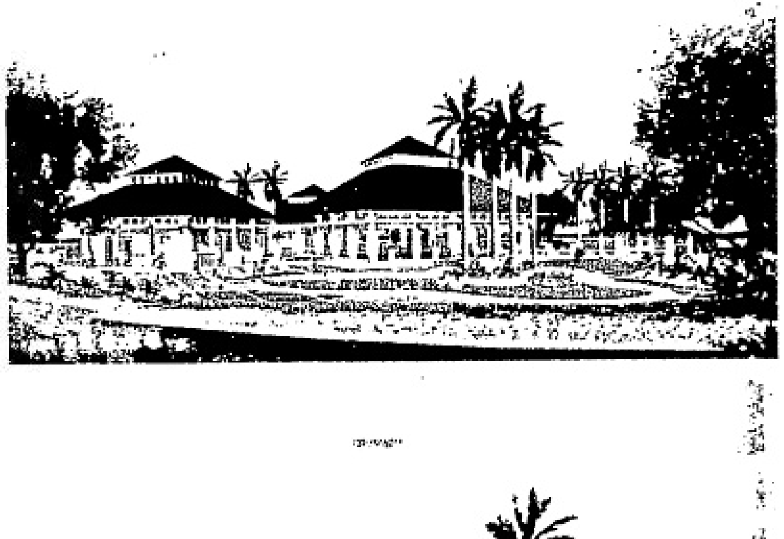
> Our passion lies in building intelligently-planned and meticulously designed communities for the young market, enabling them to enjoy the kind of lifestyle that's unlike those in more congested sites



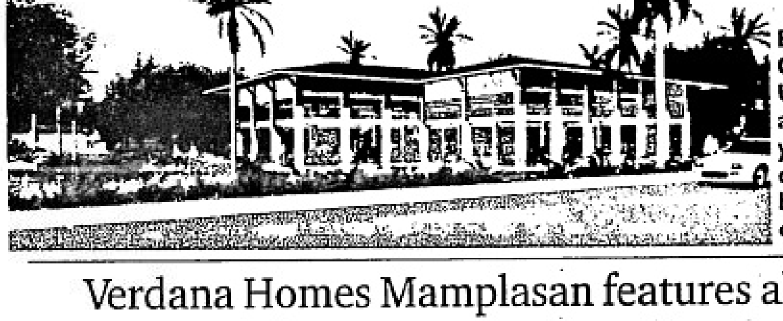
ENTRANCE GATE - Entering the development is like going into a nature-filled resort



KIDS' ZONE - Young treasures can play in the kids' pavilion with modern play equipment and biking/skating trails



SWIMMING POOL - Take a dip and unwind at the pool



BADMINTON COURT - Unleash the athlete in you at the covered badminton court

> Verdana Homes Mamplasan features all the upscale living comforts equaling those of upscale residential communities, without the upscale pricing.

COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company
rmation.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00 noon, Day before publication
Sundays: 12:00 noon, every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

STD Clinic RAPID Treat
U MAY NOT FEEL N HAV IT
Call 8175071 2178 PTamo

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

BLDG PAINT CLEAN 7264170

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Best Boys

(02)8347357 P250 MASGE

258-13-78 NICE IMAGE

Akhin Thai Masg BAGUIO&MLA (02)8347357 CBU (032)2532597

Anne 0918-2665646 Lic.

FEMALE ESCORT 0927-4060621

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE 11A Kamias QC 4356978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0920-6274243

Learn SHIATSU/MASSAGE 411-6678/0927-2252462

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09194826467

FEELS GOOD 4127758

JOYCE F MASSEUSE 0927-4443341 / 9160938

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•ADEPT TUTORS 8833671

LIGHT 526-8216 / 5301315

NEED HELP W/ UR THESIS? 02-4170253 / 09194097754

UPCAT/ACET REVIEW 4360872/0920-9068638

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

1 HOUSEMAID IMMEDIATELY 29-A Mascardo Street M. dela Paz Vill. Mkt City T-897-0106/ F-8970104

Good Maid Yaya Int'l Cook Boy Driver 7284093 /7572089

DIRECT MAID YAYA BOY DRIVER 7572089 / 7284093

A/A Maid 3T-5T 8294349

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 731-13-13

Boy Maid from Prov 7815609

GOOD CARING MAIDS 535-93-17 • 0927-480-6767

GOOD MAIDS 9957647

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

HSEHELPERS W/NBI 4390075

IDEAL MAID YAYA 7427198

Maid Yaya 7763410/7873452

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

PROV'L MAID FROM CDO MASBATE 1ST TIME 7328405

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313975

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

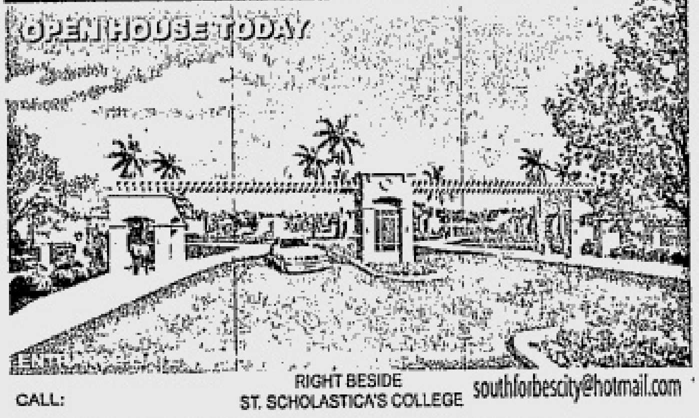
P600 LIPAT 681-7623

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

SOUTH FORBES CITY VIA SANTA ROSA
SOUTH FORBES CITY VIA SANTA ROSA
SOUTH FORBES CITY VIA SANTA ROSA



RIGHT BESIDE ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE
southforbescity@hotmail.com
CALL:
02- 635-8108 02- 636-0111 FAX 635-8176
HLURB LICENCE TO SELL NO. 09143-R4A-03-11

BRENTVILLE INTERNATIONAL
Mamplasan, Biñan Laguna
A quality project of FILINVEST LAND, INC.

UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Townhouse Units
Single Detached Houses
· A short walk to Brent Int'l School
· Perfect for Expatriates

ERA REAL ESTATE
For inquiries, call:
MARIO or YODI
822-1325 · 894-5424
894-5583
e-mail: era@brentville.com

For a limited period, privileged access to the exclusive Palms Country Club, Alabang will be extended to new residents.

QUEZON CITY

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
QUAINT
COUNTRY HOME
With original pinewood log facade, located within a lot area of 1739 sqm that has old pine trees. Two-storey wood cemented house has 7 bedrooms, 5T&B, phonelines, 2 kitchens with separate servant's quarters & bath, separate caretaker's quarters with bath, gym, gazebo, playground.
Contact BPCC
Phone No. 443-4116/4449800
Cel. No. 0917-5060800

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
RESIDENTIAL UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE:
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom
IN-HOUSE FINANCING
UP TO 5 YEARS TO PAY
AT 0 % INTEREST
AND BANK FINANCING
UP TO 10 YEARS
AT LOW INTEREST
ASTORIA PLAZA
#15 Escriva Drive, Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel#: 910-0372
687-2363 / 631-3929

COMML/RESDL

BULACAN

Northwoods w/ Golfcourse Bulacan 20%DP 80%BAL Flor 0920-9072718

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

266sqm 98L8 Ciudad Grande Call 984-7901 983-6675

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic / Gie 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Nice 2-storey 4BR w/T&B San Miguel Village, Makati BEST BUY! DBO •896-3927•

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

3stry 5BR 3TB w/office 4car garage 198m² Barangka Drive Mand P15M T5343784

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS, QC
MRS. GASTON
AYALA LAND BROKER
TEL: 931-2938 • 931-2948
E-mail: jo_gaston@yahoo.com

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

2 storey MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE with garage 5415399/09196394911.

4-5BR Nr. Airport/Mkti 822-9993 • 0922-8088800

PASIG

DE CASTRO SUBD 2 Stry P1.8M LA 321m² FA 271m² 6Bdrms 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc 27

PASIG EXEC. HOMES P2.9 to 3.2M 10%DP 2movin 3 to 4BR, 3TB maidsrm BNEW! 15mins to SMegamall, Ghills PLS. CALL LYN 0917-2727239.

QUEZON CITY

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview Lipat Agad/Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-8994322

PROJ.6 BNEW 9263307

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE PROPERTY
4BR3TB 375m² 9.5M Bunglow Tila 09194014983 /9511624

BATANGAS

AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM. HOUSE N LOT 2.5M NEG 500T DP BAL 2 YRS TO PAY W/O INT 0918-9424538

BULACAN

MALOLOS CITY 180FA 3BR 2CAR GARAGE 726-4170

CAVITE

BACOOR CAVITE
TOWN & COUNTRY WEST
P1.1M-P3M RFO
735-0720 , 735-0971

H/L 4 Sale w/Sari-sari store fully furn. San Rafael St. Exec. Vill. Lot 1 Blk 10 Phase 2, Bacoor Cavite CP-0919-6287230 look for Emilia

H&L 4BR 1TB 1.3M 163SQM MOLINO CAVITE (02)5640625

LAGUNA

84 Sqm LA 26Sqm FA 2BR 1T&B Binan P600T Neg 09163779512 09183039585

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

4BR 3TB P2.9M BNEW RFO 15 MIN TO MKT. OR 10% DP TO MOVE-IN 2-5BR ALSO IN ORTIGAS 1ST CLASS 873-64-26, 0919-6375053.

RUSH SALE!!!!
NEGOTIABLE
MAKATI CONDO
55m² with 1BR / Kitchen/T&B Tila 09194014983 /9511624

MANILA

939T Nr UST 0920-8309744

ESPANA TOWER nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3lb/grge P3.125M 8903461 loc 34

P950T nr. UST 09192784857

MANDALUYONG

8WW 3BR Furnishd 725-0041

PASIG

NO Downpayment 2Storey Condo P7,528.72/mo. www.bahaypinoycondo.com RYAN 0919-5729204 • 0927-3842797

QUEZON CITY

4BR 2TB Furnished New Mla Direct Buyers 9274719

CUBAO 1.4M 10% DP 9132224

CUBAO. Condo P1M Assume 09189201713/6479051

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

PARANAQUE

4th Estate Sn Antonio Sucat Pque 30m² 380OT Cristy 5414916; 8256443

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Nr. LaBrea OnaCrmen F'view 2Lots Total 893m² @P4000 Neg. 931-7834 / 0920-4070973

Rush Acropolis 330;414; 514;657m² P30T/m²&up Also hses 6337601-03

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antpolo 3749m² good4gas station 09178102903

Antipolo,Circumferential Rd com'l 216m² 0917-8102903

Binangonan 7000m² 660-9223

OTHER AREAS

415m² 3,500/m² Francis Ville Antipolo • 8318164

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL BTGS nr Diversion Rd 6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company

WANTS YOU

To be a strategic partner in selling

Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog; Purefoods Fiesta Ham; Purefoods Honey-cured Bacon; Purefoods Corned Beef; Purefoods Carne Norte; Purefoods Chunkee Corned Beef, and a host of another Purefoods products Filipino families love!

Let's share in this successful business venture!

For inquiries please contact:
Tito de Castro (GMA) - 0917-5379628
Sonny Yangco (NLuzon) - 0917-5379587
Dante Natanauan (SLuzon) - 0917-5379649

Tender Juicy · Chunkee Corned Beef · Beefies Hotdog · Corned Beef

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

983sqm Cor. Lot Ph3 Mla. Southwoods w/TCT P6M Dr. Lao 0922-8021340, 6550591

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Metrogate Ph2 Dasma Rush! 120m²@P3,500 0917-8439799

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA 240m² Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

BAGUIO

Takai Road 6200m² 660-9223

TAGUIG

8,160m² P28M Rowena Rosales Call 534-1909 • 641-9095

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² Direct Buyer Only 0920-9112910

BATANGAS

TAAL BTGS nr Diversion Rd 6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461

FACTORY/WHSE

2686;432m² w/4WHS 725-0041

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

Rights P100T Loc. Shaw Ideal 4 Intrnet/Food Bus. Tel 656-4489 • 0917-9922521

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA FRT ATENEO Q.C> 3 UNITS 103, 75 & 50m² Tel 7313035 9289541

HOUSE

LAGUNA

S JOSE AYL 0919-2064003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

3BR VIL GUAD 0919-2064003

Cndo 1BR TB w/Phne 0919-6060950

Mkt Studio P8.5 1-2br P10T Free Pkg No Dne w/Tel 8979417

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

MANILA

Accessible 2 Makati/Taft Paco 1&2BR 7T Up 589-3230

Condo nr. UST 09192784857

MANDALUYONG

PARAGON PLAZA PENT-HOUSE Brand new 234sm w/ 2-parking 3BR.5TB T5277616 Violy.Rosa

MUNTINLUPA

3BR MATCOR 0919-2064003

PASAY

1BR.2BR.STUDIO P7.5T UP 1836 Leveriza, Pasay Tel. 4004336

PASIG

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES NEAR EVER GOTESCO-PASIG Tel 09178356891;4213785/86

QUEZON CITY

61sm COMMERCIAL SPACE 14T 3BR 2T&B 108sm w/ parking 12T Valencia cor Castilla Q.C. 3727624/ 09175325638 Rowena

Very near Araneta Center @ low rates
COMMERCIAL SPACES FOR RENT
w/ option to BUY!
Ideal for Spa, Gym, Tutorial, Boutique & Learning Centers,
CALL 723-2498
724-8147 • 725-5603
PYP MANSION II
78 L Santos Diaz St., QC

Garden Island New Mla 2br 15t/mo 7001393/09163009946

STUDIO UNIT Infront of Ateneo & Miriam College Call Nona 0919-5955673

APARTMENT

MAKATI

3BR GUAD MKT 0919-2064003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Unfurn 3BR3TB 1Md 8903104

MANILA

2BR 864 Benny St. Sampaloc nr UDMC P9T 941-3550

Apt 4 Rnt 2BR 1TB P8500 480 Pureza Sta Mesa 7156556

Nr UST 2BR 10T 373-0587

MANDALUYONG

2Sty 2BR nr JRC P6.5T 718-0968

MAND NEW PRKNG 3RM-2CR CLN SAFE 7133259 7150325

QUEZON CITY

1BR APT PROJ.8 T927-2640

CUBAO P3.8 Ladys 9124428

FOR LEASE

•FOR LEASE•
Jupiter St. Flr Area 148sqm Call Myrna 8931043

ROOM & BOARD

MAND CLN SAFE W/CR STRNG H2O owen METER 7133259 / 7150325

Mkt nr Ayala Free Utily 8906331

MLA, nr UST P120 7118679

Prj3 lady P3T studio 9137513

PROJ.4 1br1tb 0917-4527142

STA. MESA owed KTCHN ELEC MTR pasage, CR, RM STRNG H2O 7150325

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

Medcal Field Cmmrcl Area Las Pinas 873-7776 • 0919-4359218

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3577523/24

BUSN OFW CAR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

01 Cvic VTI A/T P540 Neg 1 own 36Km T-09204503127

96 VTEC AT 299T 9139033

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

STAREX'00 White A/T Excellent Condition P550T 724-9512/19

ISUZU

'00 M Isuzu Trper 3.1 Blg Horn Dsel P410T 2DRS Drk Green 09196056686

MAZDA

'96 323Sedan 160T 0927-4085033

MERCEDES

1989 MB190E 2.6 ENG US-VERSION MATIC 46T MILES P550K (NEGO) 8403850 OFC HRS-MARCOS

TOYOTA

'04 Bnew RAV4 Prado H Ace all orig lady driven casa mntained 350T neg 09185672808

'98 GLI Corolla comp ins all orig lady driven casa mntaind 350T neg 09185672808

Hilux Surf 4WD 1998 A/T Sunroof Fresh (In&Out) VG Con 390T neg • 995-0632

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Space Gear Serena Safari Terrano MV Previa Town-Hi Ace Vanette Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty T-in 9120647 09178342020

TAXI EXSALOON M1997 T8220354

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco Rent A Car-Cars Vans Coaster (02)800-5595

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 0560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

CHOW' CHAMPLINE 8247734

Dog School 09192050952

LonghairedGuineaPig5277616
Less50% on boar 20% on sow

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

CT SCAN TECH BS RAD TECH ON JOB TRAINING FEMLE 2640 RIZAL AVE STA CRUZ MLA TEL 7111967 7126452

Female GS/P.E. Teachers Novaliches Area • 930-9282

MIDWIFE FOR NWBORN YAYA FOR TODDLER 7320189

ULTRASOUND TECH
22-30YO, Biodata/TrainCert/
NBI Police/Brgy/Diploma
HEALTH VENTURES INC.
960E RCB Bldg. Aurora Blvd.
Cubao Quezon City 438-8689

"Would you like this to be your story...?"

I admit, I was hesitant to apply. The pay was too good to be true.

They trained me to become a very successful Business Development Manager and supported me all the way.
Now I've really changed the way I think about selling...

Sure my friend laughed when I told them I'm on commission.. but when they say my first check, that laugh turned to envy because they also want to do what I was doing...
I said: "Sorry guys... only one full-time position is available at this time..."

To find out if you qualify,
Call: +632-4269240
Your call will be entertained
Mondays to Wednesdays
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

•DIRECT HIRE•
OFFICE MKTG STAFF 18/45yo coll level/grad w.w/o exp Start ASAP! 4390398 Marlen

Acctg Clerk Liason Off Mktg Asst/Driver 9115997

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 4043528 5212773 5899958

LAPTOP TECHNICIAN
at least 2yrs Exp. in trouble shooting for laptop computer. Call 633-6367 up to 68 Ms. Joanne

OPTOMETRIST • 641-5975

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTN BUYER! URGENT!
PECSONVILLE SUBD PH1
SOTERO AURELIO
JUSTIANO ABUDA
SATURNINO ADVENTO
YOUR TITLE ARE MISSING
CALL 9120476/0916-5793314

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. LINA ABELAR JAVIER who died intestate on April 12, 2003 without any issue was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. # 14; Page # 87; Book # 16; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Patria G. Abella of the City of Manila
PDI-Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 14, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOPE T. SANTOS was extrajudicially settled with sale among his heirs per Doc. No. 27 Page No. 7 Book 104 Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Humberto H. Basco of Quezon City
(PDI-Jan. 24, 31 & Feb. 7, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that PCI Leasing & Finance, Inc. Stock Cert. #15120A under the name of Roque S. Lumanlan was lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 31, Feb. 07 & 14, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2622

RTW factory price 3738821

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MST B EMPLOYD 984-2865

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT SALE!
Foodwarmer, low-hipressure
Chicken Roteserie, Sinks
Ice Crusher, Bonesaw,
Hod Gridle, Fryer 9981170

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
Municipality of Orani
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(ITB)

February 7, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangays Pagasa and Sibul, Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of the 3.355 kilometers of Dona-Sibul Farm to Market Road under Contract Number RIRR 03 013 02 NOR-B.

Project Duration: 132 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 2,500.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 76,000.00
Bid Closing Date: March 11, 2004, **Time:** 2:00 p.m.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	10,520.00	Sq. Mtrs.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	7,596.00	Cu. Mtrs.
13	Structure Excavation	1,963.00	Cu. Mtrs.
14(1)	Embankment from Roadway Exc.	403.00	Cu. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	2,013.00	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	2,013.00	Cu. Mtrs.
50(1)	Installation of 900mm dia RCPC	12.00	Ln. Mtrs.
51	Grouted Riprap (w/ conc. lining)	1,186.00	Ln. Mts.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned; Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; 1-Bagger Concrete Mixer (2 units) - owned; Vibratory Plate Compactor (1 unit); Backhoe with endloader (1 unit) - owned or lease; Loader (1 unit)-owned: Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested biders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan starting **February 9, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP2,500.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **February 19, 2004** at 2:00 p.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP76,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of ORANI, Province of Bataan, on or before the Bid closing date on **March 11, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of ORANI, Bataan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **MS. CLEOTILDE B. REYES**
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 7, 2004)

WANTED
(1) SENIOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

Item No. ILSB-SRLEO-4-1998
Salary Grade: 19
Basic Salary: P16,792 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance
Minimum Qualification / Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Law, Economics, Sociology, Business/Public Administration, Labor Relations, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- Two (2) years of research experience (an advantage if in the field of Labor and Employment)
- Eight (8) hours of relevant training

Qualified parties may personally apply or send their comprehensive resumé to:

The Executive Director
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES
5th Floor, Department of Labor and Employment Building
General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
Fax Nos. 527-3488-22; 527-3491

TABLET CUTTER / MEDICINE SPLITTER

A quality product distributed by
LST SUMMIT, INC.
507 Policarpio Street,
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (6-32) 532-5275 / 532-6374 / 532-0127 / 532-0432 / 534-3812

**AVAILABLE IN ALL
mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
NATIONWIDE

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT
ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

In reply, please refer to
Tel Nos (2) 920-5521 to 60
Fax No (2) 921-2887
Telex No. (722) 27647 MWSS PH

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites interested Contractors to apply for **Eligibility and to Bid** for the following, Pacquiao, contract, for the re-construction of the leaning perimeter fence at the La Mesa Reservoir.

Package No.	Description	Approved Budget Cost
Package No. 3	Re-construction of Leaning Perimeter Wall Fence along Litex Road, from Scopena Eatery & Vulcanizing Shop (Sta. 0+240) to Sta. 0+256; from in-front House #36 (Sta. 0+467) to in-front DOS Street (Sta. 0+532)	P455,220.00
Package No. 4	Re-construction of Leaning Perimeter Wall Fence along Litex Road, from Health Center (Sta. 0+563) to EMBC Construction Supply Hardware (Sta. 0+651)	P494,560.00
Package No. 5	Re-construction of Leaning Perimeter Wall Fence along Litex Road, with bar arm & barb wire and with Standard Height of 2.65 meters from: a) Sta. 0 + 651 to Sta. 0 + 671 b) Sta. 0 + 771 to Sta. 0 + 792 and Perimeter Fence at San Juan Reservoir	P522,660.00

The approved budget of the contract is chargeable against MWSS local funds. The contract duration for each Contract Package shall be 45 calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

All particulars regarding the documents to be submitted relative to this Invitation for Qualification/Eligibility, as well as all bidding requirements shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Those who have previously applied for eligibility and have been evaluated eligible for MWSS fencing projects need not submit eligibility documents and those who are not yet prequalified should submit their Qualification/Eligibility documents provided for under Section 23.6 of the IRR, not later than **February 13, 2004**.

The Bidding date is scheduled on **March 2, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by all interested eligible Bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in the amount of P500.00 starting **February 6, 2004** from the MWSS BAC Secretariat, Engineering & Project Management Dept., Ground Floor, MWSS Complex Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The official timer for purposes of determining the official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the Office of MWSS, BAC SECRETARIAT. Late bids will not be accepted.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following:

a. Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or Bank Draft - minimum of one (1%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).
b. Bank Guarantee - minimum of one and a half (1 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).
c. Surety Bond - minimum of two and a half (2 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).

Only eligible bidders will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Eligible bidders may bid for the three (3) packages. However, only one (1) contract package will be awarded to one (1) Contractor. In the event that after the opening of the financial proposal and the evaluation of bids, only one (1) contractor was found to be the lowest evaluated bidder for the three (3) contract packages, the said bidder will be awarded the first contract package (Package 3). The second lowest bidders or the bidders next in rank for each of the succeeding contract packages (Package 4&5) will be awarded one (1) contract at the price of the lowest evaluated bidder for that particular contract package.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the above address of the BAC SECRETARIAT on **February 20, 2004** at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Site Inspection of the project.

The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to Contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s or any obligation to inform them of the grounds for the MWSS' action.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - Feb. 1 & 7, 2004)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2004

I. Fellowship in Adult Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

II. Fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine
- PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on May 24, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on July 1, 2004

III. Fellowship in Anesthesiology
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

IV. 1 Year Subspecialty Fellowship in:
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Electrophysiology
  - Deadline for submission of application is on March 5, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous traning programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your recommendations to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

---

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
Municipality of Bagac
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(ITB)

February 7, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangay A. Ricardo, Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of the 3.507 kilometers of Sili Farm to Market Road under Contract Number RIRR 03 010 02 BAG-B.

Project Duration: 90 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 2,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 69,000.00
Bid Closing Date: March 10, 2004, **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	10,500.00	Sq. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	2,417.42	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	2,006.10	Cu. Mtrs.
31	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (3,500psi)	704.00	Sq. Mtrs.
50(1)	Installation of 900mm dia. RCPC	60.00	Ln. Mtrs.
50(3)	Grouted Riprap (w/ Concrete Lining)	3,410.00	Ln. Mtrs.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned: Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Concrete Transit Mixer (2 units) - owned; Portable Concrete Mixer; 1-Bagger (2 units) - owned; Concrete Vibrator (2 units) - owned: Vibratory Plate Compactor (2 units); Backhoe (1 unit) - owned or lease; Loader (1 unit) - owned: Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Water truck (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan starting **February 9, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP2,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **February 19, 2004** at 10:00 a.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP280,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan, on or before the Bid closing date on March 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Bagac, Bataan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **MS. EUGENIA C. GALVEZ**
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Manila International Airport Authority is inviting all interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposals for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Fire Truck with an approved budget of FORTY THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P43,443,000.00)

Specifications

PERFORMANCE:
Acceleration: 0 to 80 km/hr (50 mph) in 35 seconds; Top speed: At least 105 km/hr (65 mph);
Side Slope Stabiliy: >30 degrees; Gradeabiliy: Ascend/descend of 60 percent
Engine: Diesel Cummins 4 cycle or its equivalent V8
Water reservoir: Capacity = 3170 US gallons

The source of fund for this expense shall be taken from the Corporate Funds of the Authority.

Delivery of the aforementioned shall be within 300 calendar days from the issuance of the notice of award.

All interested parties are invited to send their Letter of Intent and procure the Bidding Documents from the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee 2 Office of the AGM for Finance and Administration, 2nd Level, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, NAIA, Pasay City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from January 30 to February 17, 2004.

BAC shall use a "pass/fail" criteria to determine the eligibility of prospective bidders. As such, non-submission of the requested eligibility requirements will result in the disqualification of prospective bidders.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

1.	Pre-Bid Conference	– February 18, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – Admin. Board Room 4th Level, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, NAIA, Pasay City
2.	Deadline of submission of Eligibility Documents & Bids	– March 3, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – Admin. Board Room, 4th Level, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, NAIA, Pasay City
3.	Opening of Bids	– March 3, 2004 – 2:30 p.m. – Admin. Board Room, 4th Level, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, NAIA, Pasay City

The Manila International Airport Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect or informality, and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the bidders for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bids and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government. Any questions arising from the herein compliance shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MARCELINO R. YUMOL, JR.**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee 2

(PDI – Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

OBITUARIES

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
104 years
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743 6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No. 712-2762

On her SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

we lovingly remember

CYNTHIA IGNACIO BUHAIN

of Ayala Heights, Q.C. and Calapan, Or. Mindoro
who passed away on February 8, 2002

Holy Masses will be offered on Sunday, February 8
at the following churches:

1.	SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO	*Forbes Park, Makati*	7:00 AM
2.	CHRIST THE KING	*E. Rodriquez Ave., Quezon City*	8: 00 AM
3.	ST. PETER PARISH	*Fairview, QC*	8:00 AM
4.	MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH	*Malate, Manila*	8:00 AM
5.	SAN SEBASTIAN BASILICA	*Recto, Manila*	7:00 AM
6.	SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH	*Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 AM
7.	MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH	*Broadway, Quezon City*	7: 00 AM
8.	MARY THE QUEEN PARISH	*Greenhills, San Juan*	7: 00 AM
9.	MANILA CATHEDRAL	*Manila*	7:00 AM
10.	NUESTRA SENORA DELA STRADA	*La Vista, Quezon City*	8:00 AM
11.	MT. CARMEL CHURCH	*Project 6, QC*	8:00 AM
12.	HOLY SACRIFICE CHURCH	*UP Diliman, QC*	8:00 AM
13.	SAN LORENZO RUIZ PARISH	*Tierra Verde, Tandang Sora, QC*	8:00 AM
14.	STO. NINO PARISH	*Calapan Or. Mindoro*	8:00 AM.

Her husband, Jimmy, children Don and Lennie, Danda and Miggs, and grandchildren, request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

" ....Absent with the body to be present with the Lord"..
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved

"Mama"

GRACIA AMORSOLO VALDES

has joined her husband "Dandy" and son "Marcus" to peacefully rest in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on February 5, 2004 at the age 76.

Her loving children **EILEEN, NONIE, MIKE, MARISSA, KANDEE** and **JULIA**; their spouses **JUN GAMAD, MON PEKSON, DORY PUNZALAN, TESS FIGUEROA, ARTHUR MERLE, RICHARD LITONJUA**; grandchildren **STAN, BUNNY, MAY, YOGI, TRISTAN, NOEL, LOUISE, MONCHING, GINO, PETER, BAMBI** and **MIGUEL**, their husbands and wives, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at Gapan Catholic Cemetery, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija immediately following 10:00 a.m. Mass.

DEDICATED TEACHER,
LOVING SISTER,
BELOVED AUNT.

LUZ R. LUCENA

born 27 January 1922 returned to her Creator on 25 January 2004 in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

The bereaved sisters and brothers-in-law **VIRGINIA L. VELUYA, ANGELA "LITA" LEVISTE, REMEDIOS** and **ENRICO D. MONTESA, SR., JOSEFINA** and **EMILIO J. GARCIA**, and **PERFECTO MERIEL**; the nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces request the pious readers to pray for perpetual light and joy the rest of her life.

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque: Barcelona Chapel (Ground Floor).

Interment will be on 08 February 2004 (Sunday), 8:00 in the morning at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Norma Barot Patacsil

August 26, 1940 – February 5, 2004

She will be missed by her husband **Greg**; their children **Martin, Norge, Lia** and **Ferdie**, and **Miguel**; brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends.

Her family requests pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Broadway, Quezon City.

Cremation will be announced later.

Basilides Dizon Tech

now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 6th day of February, 2004 at the age of 77.

His wife **Nieves**; children **Winnie, Alex** and **Josie**; children-in-law **Roy, Cathay** and **Jay**; grandchildren **Blesee, Blanca, John, Ina, Triein** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 6 P. Gomez St., Pasig City.
Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

—John 3:16

JOSE "JOE" ANGELES ISIDRO

of Orion, Bataan and Pasay City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 4, 2004 at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at **Rizal Funeral Homes, 438 Cementina St. corner Libertad, Pasay City.**

Interment will be on February 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

On behalf of Papa,

DR. AZARIAS SAMSON MORALEDA

we would like to thank each and every one of you for making
his life such a one so fulfilled.

He had fun because you laughed with him,
sang, played and drank with him.
He was a good doctor because you believed in him.
He loved and cared for you because you received him.
He created so many fond memories because you were a part of it.

Till the time when we'll see Papa again,
Strong, warm, laughing,

We thank you. *

THE FAMILY OF
NONOY MORALEDA
Legazpi City

* Excerpt from the acknowledgment of your sympathy by his son, Dr. Imbo

---

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT
Third Airports Development Project

4th Floor Emerald Building
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines

(632) 636 7906 to 08
(632) 637 4885
(632) 636 7911

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from European Investment Bank (EIB) towards the cost of the expansion and upgrading of Puerto Princesa Airport under the Third Airports Development Project (TADP) of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) of which one of the major components is the land acquisition and resettlement.
2. The expansion and upgrading of the Puerto Princesa Airport will affect approximately 90 hectares of military owned and/ or controlled land and will displaced various operational and residential facilities which needs to be compensated and relocated as stipulated in the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and EIB prior to any disbursement from the loan and shall be financed solely from the GOP counterpart funds and for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
3. The executing agency shall be:

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
Office of the Project Director
4th Floor Emerald Building
14 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Phone : +632 636 79 06 to 08
Fax : +632 636 7911
E-mail : cowi-naco@pacific.net.ph
Contact Person : Delia P. Capicenio, Project Director

4. The Department of Transportation and Communications hereinafter referred to as the "Employer" now invites Application for Eligibility and to Bid from contractor/(s) for the following works under the contracts:
5. Name of Project : Replication – External Works (Phase II)
6. The project for this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid covers the functional replication of military structures and facilities affected by the expansion and upgrading of Puerto Princesa Airport. The main works included are as follows:
   a) Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (12,745 sq.m)
   b) Relocation of 60,000 gal. capacity elevated Water Storage Tank with Deep Well provision
   c) Pump House, Pump and Accessories, Drainage
   d) Connection of Secondary Powerlines, Water Service Connections, Communication lines to the Replicated facilities included in Phase I as follows:
      - ADAC Hangar
      - 2-storey Bachelor Officers Quarters (BOQ)
      - 2-storey Airmens Dormitory
      - 2-storey Squadron
      - 5-storey Condominium
      - Air Base Primary School and Day Care Center
      - Officers Ladies Club
      - Guard House
      - Pump Rooms
7. The Approved Budget for the Contract Works to be Bid is Php 35,864,863.29
8. The Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures holding a PCAB license of General Engineering Large A for Roads, Highway Pavement and not barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation. In case of Joint Venture, the lead firm and member partners must satisfy the requirements of jointly and severally liable provision for any and all obligations, which the joint venture may incur. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre bidding Conference(s) shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
9. The Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form 1) will be available to interested bidders for issuance from February 9, 2004 to February 17, 2004, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the address stated above upon payment to the DOTC cashier of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00. Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished RES Form 1 and attachments to the same office not later than 5:00 P.M. on February 20, 2004. Interested bidders are requested to bring the original copy of their updated PCAB/IAC License and Letter of Intent to the same office.
10. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders upon receipt of Letter of Eligibility from the above office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) from Mar. 15 to Mar. 19, 2004, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
11. Bids must be delivered to the address given below at 2:00 P.M. on or before Apr. 13, 2004. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

The Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Award Committee for Foreign Assisted Airport Projects
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

12. The Department of Transportation and Communications will not be responsible for costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation of the Bids. DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government nor does DOTC guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES**
Assistant Secretary and PBAC Chairman

(PDI – February 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
Municipality of Orani
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID

(ITB)

February 7, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangays Pagasa and Sibul, Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Samal, Province of Bataan and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of the 5.87 kilometers of Butarero-Legua-Sibul Farm to Market Road under Contract Number RIRR 03 012 01 NOR-B.

Project Duration: 170 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 3,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 107,500.00
Bid Closing Date: March 11, 2004, **Time:** 2:00 p.m.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	11,740.00	Sq. Mtrs.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	13,686.85	Cu. Mtrs.
13	Structure Excavation	1,831.98	Cu. Mtrs.
14	Embankment	1,422.50	Cu. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	3,522.00	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	3,522.00	Cu. Mtrs.
50(3)	Underdrains (900 dia, RCPC)	12.00	Ln. Mtrs.
51	Grouted Riprap (Open Canal)	1,108.00	Ln. Mts.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned: Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Loader (1 unit) - owned: Backhoe (1 unit) - owned; Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Water truck (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan starting **February 9, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP3,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **February 19, 2004** at 2:00 p.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP107,500.00 in form: Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan, on or before the Bid closing date on **March 11, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Orani, Bataan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnify to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **MS. CLEOTILDE B. REYES**
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
COLLECTION DISTRICT XI
Port of Zamboanga

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (sealed bid system) on **February 11, 2004** at **10:00 A.M.** at the Customs Conference Room, District XI, Port Area, Zamboanga City of the following articles:

Lot No.	Seizure Identification Number	Description	Location	Floor Price
1	38-2003	6,300 sacks of imported Rice @ 50kgs/sack (Good Quality)	San Jose Gusu Bodega	P750.00/sack
		3,200 sacks of imported Rice @50 kgs/sack (Damaged)	San Jose Gusu Bodega	P200.00/sack

For particulars, please see or call Mr. Abubakar J. Mohammad/Ms. Ermelinda J. Evangelista, Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee, Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Zamboanga City, Tel. No. (062) 992-6844.

The subject article shall be open for public viewing on February 7-10, 2004 at 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the San Jose Gusu Bodega located at the San Jose Gusu, Zamboanga City.

There will be a pre-qualification conference for the prospective bidders on February 10, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the BOC Customhouse Port Area, Zamboanga City. Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the auction sale. Moreover, those with derogatory information of having been involved in smuggling shall not be qualified to participate. The Bureau of Customs reserves the right to reject any/all bids.

(Sgd.) **ABUBAKAR J. MOHAMMAD**
Deputy Collector for Operations
Chairman, Auction Committee

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. TOMAS L. ALCID, CESO VI**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI–February 7, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested parties to register with NFA and to apply for eligibility and to bid for a forty two million two hundred ninety eight thousand five hundred thirty one pesos (P42,298,531.00). Approved Budget Contract on *Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS)* in NFA, Cebu Provincial Office. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, but not limited to, stevedoring, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc.

Schedule of Bidding Activities:

- Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements	- Feb. 09-15, 2004
- Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements	- Feb. 18, 2004
- Issuance of Notice of Eligibility or non-Eligibility	- Feb. 12-20, 2004
- Issuance of Bid documents	- Feb. 19-25, 2004
- Pre-Bidding Conference at 2pm	- Mar. 04, 2004
- Submission & Opening of Bid Envelops at 2pm	- Mar. 16, 2004

After payment of a non-transferable, non-refundable application fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00), interested parties may secure the List of Eligibility Requirements from the Secretariat, Regional Bids & Awards Committee for Integrated Cargo Handling Services (RBAC-ICHS), 2nd Flr., NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City. Those considered eligible to bid shall pay an additional bidding fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) and participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper at the 3rd Floor, NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City. For further inquiries, you may contact the Secretariat at **Tel. No. 232-1939 / 232-6832 / Fax 233-6095.**

Bid award shall be governed by RA 9184 and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

The **NFA** reserves the right to reject any or bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) **FLO G. PASCUAL,** ***CESO V***
Regional Director

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 14, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

RE-INVITATION TO REGISTER AND TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors classified by CIAP and registered with PCAB and with technical knowhow in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology Application or Contractors with Joint Venture Agreement to Applicators that Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to register and apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT AND LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION	CONTRACT DURATION
Repair of MFC Warehouse #4 MFC Compound, Valenzuela City	P4,000,000.00	At least Medium A	120 Calendar Days

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Issuance & Submission of Application Forms For Registration	February 09-16, 2004 (Until 2:00 p.m.)
2. Issuance & Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Registration Certificate & Letter of Intent	February 18-24, 2004 (Until 5:00 p.m.)
3. Conduct of Eligibility Check	February 24-27, 2004
4. Deadline for Issuance of Bidding; Documents and Notice of Eligibility	March 01, 2004 (Until 5:00 p.m.)
5. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 03, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.
6. Submission & Opening of Bids	March 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Interested contractors shall submit their Registration and Eligibility Requirements and Letter of Intent in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Ave., Paco, Manila.

Application forms and list of requirements for registration may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of P2,000.00. Only those issued with Certificates of Official Registration may apply for eligibility and to bid upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Php3,000.00.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE D. CORDERO**
Regional Director, NFA-NCR

(PDI–Feb. 7 & 14, 2004)

GIA

Thailand Campus

World's #1 gemological institute
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Become a recognized professional in the gem and jewelry industry

Diamonds Diploma Program starts April 19, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77
Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com
www.giathailand.com

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

In reply please refer to
Tel. Nos. (2) 920-5521 to 60
Fax No. (2) 921-2887
Telex No. (722) 27947 MWSS PH

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES has received a loan from the ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) toward the cost of the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Project, and it is intended to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.
2. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders from member countries of the ADB for the Supply and Delivery of Vacuum Tankers denominated as Contract No. VT-1 with the following capacity:

Section A	-	Vacuum Tankers, 10 cubic-meter capacity	-	30 units
Section B	-	Vacuum Tankers, 5 cubic-meter capacity	-	6 units

3. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: One-Envelope Bidding Procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect Bidding Documents at the office address given below.

THE MWSS BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE
Ground Floor, Engineering Bldg.
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in cashier's/manager's check payable to the METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) in the amount of two thousand (Php2,000.00) pesos or forty (US$40) US dollars.
6. Pre-Bid conference will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on **February 17, 2004.**
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount of not less than 2% of the Bid Amount and must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 p.m. on **March 21, 2004.**
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 p.m. on **March 21, 2004** at the office of the MWSS BAC Chairman, Ground Floor, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

   The official timer for purposes of determining the official time shall be that of the bundy clock located at the office of the MWSS BAC, Chairman.
9. Late Bids will not be accepted.
10. MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - Feb. 1 & 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the DOH – Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley, Carig, Tuguegarao City hereby invites interested bidders to a public bidding for drugs & medicines; medical, dental & laboratory supplies and reagents and office equipment.

The approved budget is sourced from GOP as follows:

Drugs and medicines	P 7,607,778.00
Medical, dental & laboratory supplies and reagents	P 1,272,820.00
Office equipment	P 927,387.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Registration Requirements, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents February 16 to March 1, 2004, (Monday-Friday) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. RBAC Secretariat, DOH, CHD-CV.

Pre-Bid Conference – February 19, 2004 – 9:00 a.m., Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV

Opening of bids : March 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m. for Drugs and Medicines, March 3, 2004, 9:00 a.m. for Medical, Dental & Laboratory supplies and reagents and Office Equipment at Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV.

Submission of bids shall be before 9:00 a.m. on dates as indicated in the opening of bids. Late bids will not be accepted. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security.

Bid documents shall be given upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of seven hundred fifty pesos (P750.00) per category.

The RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government and supportive to the needs of the DOH, CHD-CV, Tuguegarao City.

For more details, please contact RBAC Secretariat at telephone no. 846-7230.

(Sgd.) **PURITA S. DANGA, MD, MPH, CESO IV**
OIC-Director IV

(PDI–Feb. 7 & 14, 2004)

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

COL. BENJAMIN G. TOTANES, SR. (Ret.)

1935-2004

A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, teacher, and military officer went to be with the Lord on 22 January 2004 in Manteca, California, USA.

wish to express their profound gratitude for all the assistance that you have given to the bereaved family during their hours of bereavement and the prayers you have so kindly offered for the repose of his soul.

> **"One thing I ask of the Lord;**
> **this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house**
> **all the days of my life..."**
> **Psalm 27:4**

ADORACION REYES-BERNARDEZ

September 6, 1939 – February 6, 2004
of Cabanatuan City & Bucay, Abra

Her bereaved husband **ENGR. RUBEN F. BERNARDEZ;** aunt **Felisa P. Reyes;** sisters and brother **Trinidad+, Consorcia, Julieta, Severino, Isabelita** and **Digna;** brothers-in-law **Fernando B. Santiago+** and **Luis R. Banzon;** nephews **Joselito R. Santiago, Jose Luis, Jose Onofre, Jose Antonio** and **Joseph Reuben Banzon;** relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Padre Crisostomo (Lote), Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at the Cabanatuan City Public Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Nicolas de Tolentine Cathedral, Cabanatuan City.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

LOURDES LADINES RAMOS

of Binalonan, Pangasinan and Quezon City
(MARCH 12, 1912 – FEBRUARY 6, 2004)

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 6, 2004 at the age of 91.

Husband **Edilberto, Sr. (†);** children & children-in-law **Arthur & Vilma, Carolina & Clodualdo, Dely (†), Evelyn and Antonio, Clarita & Mark, Edilberto, Jr. & Flordeliza, Freddie & Marie;** grandchildren **Jinky, Artvil & Gigi, Jonjie, Claudine & Alfred, Claude, Jr. & Olive, Toti, Lissa & Jones, Joey, James, Joana, Kitchie, Sheryll and Jason, Eddie, Mitch & Tintin, Edycon, Macky;** great grandchildren **Angelica, Mickey, Skylah, Hannah and Denden,** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 9:00 A.M. at the Family Mausoleum, Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Dollar gains, bonds dip on Fed comment

SINGAPORE—The beleaguered dollar crawled to a one-week high against the yen on Friday and bonds eased on an upbeat economic assessment from a Federal Reserve governor and caution ahead of a meeting of the world's top finance officials.

Most top Asian stock indices firmed, by almost 2 percent in Hong Kong, and European stocks were expected to open marginally higher after the comments by Fed Governor Ben Bernanke helped boost US stocks.

But the Japanese market was flat as investors awaited the meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G7) nations, which started yesterday.

Bernanke's comments that the US economy should post economic growth of 4 percent or more in 2004 and that employment growth would start to pick up worried investors betting the dollar would fall after the G7 meeting.

The G7 is expected to offer no clear support for a stronger dollar in the communique that will follow the two-day meeting in Florida, but Bernanke's comments were taken as a hint of higher interest rates by currency traders.

The dollar spiked to a high of 106.25 yen from 105.82 yen in late US trade. The euro was little changed around $1.2547.

The Fed governor's comments hurt US Treasury prices and had a knock-on effect on Japanese government bonds (JGBs).

In the equity markets, Tokyo's Nikkei average closed down less than four points at 10,460.92. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares, excluding Japan, rose 0.8 percent.

European stock benchmarks were expected to open up about 0.2 percent in London and Paris and by some 0.1 percent in Frankfurt, according to financial bookmakers.

On the Tokyo market, West Japan Railway Co. lost 4.2 percent on reports the government would sell shares in the company.

Toyota, the world's second largest car maker, rose 1.7 percent after a 60 percent surge in quarterly net profits prompted it to raise its full-year earnings forecast.

Video games publisher Sega Corp rose 6.8 percent after Deutsche Bank upgraded the stock to a "buy" despite a 42 percent fall in quarterly profits.

Stock benchmarks elsewhere were up 1.4 percent in Taiwan, 1.2 percent in Singapore and 0.3 percent in Australia. *Reuters*

Enjoy the CONVENIENCE of Living Beside the MALL

Bloomfields
QUEZON CITY

QUIRINO HIGHWAY, NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY
HOUSE AND LOT PACKAGES
BESIDE Robinsons Place Novaliches and Big R Supercenter

call
636-0888
or text
0922-8380888

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS DIVISION

HLURB NO.: 03979

Coming Soon - Fifth Avenue Place at Fort Bonifacio

JAL posts profit in Q4

TOKYO—Asia's top carrier Japan Airlines System said Friday it posted 3.7 billion yen ($34.9 million) in net profit in the December quarter as air traffic began to recover from the Iraq war and SARS outbreak.

The JAL group posted a recurring profit of 11.0 billion yen on revenue of 525.6 billion yen in the three months. It did not offer comparisons to a year earlier.

In the nine months to December, however, the group posted a 53.8 billion yen net loss, a 38.7 billion yen recurring loss on revenue of 1.47 trillion yen.

"International passenger traffic between October and December showed recovery in both business and leisure travel after the worst of the impact of the Iraq war and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak," the airline said in a statement.

While international passenger traffic revenues fell some 21.7 percent in the nine months to December to 405.4 billion yen from a year earlier, the decrease shrank in October-December to 6.6 percent at 154.6 billion yen, it said. *AFP*

US productivity slows down

WASHINGTON—The productivity of America's workers slowed in the final three months of 2003, advancing at a 2.7 percent annual rate —a still respectable pace that bodes well for the economy's strengthening recovery.

The slowdown came after productivity—the amount an employee produces per hour of work—rocketed at a 9.5 percent rate in the third quarter, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

Although the fourth-quarter's productivity performance was weaker than the 3.4 percent growth rate that economists were forecasting, it still marked a decent pace. Analysts were hopeful that companies—after having squeezed so much efficiencies out of existing workers last year—will expand their ranks of workers to meet growing demand.

Analysts were predicting productivity to slow in the fourth quarter as economic growth moderated. The economy grew at a healthy 4 percent annual rate in the final quarter of 2003, down from a blistering 8.2 percent pace in the prior quarter. That marked the best performance in nearly two decades.

For all of 2003, productivity grew by a solid 4.2 percent, following an even stronger 4.9 percent increase in 2002.

In other economic news, new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week by a seasonally adjusted 17,000 to 356,000, the department said. Some of the increase was related to bad weather in some states, which caused weather-sensitive companies to lay off workers, a government analyst said.

Even with the rise, claims have been below 400,000 for 18 straight weeks, a sign the pace of layoffs is stabilizing, analysts say.

Many of the nation's retailers, including Wal-Mart and Nordstrom, reported January sales above expectations. Frigid weather helped to boost sales of winter apparel and other cold-weather items and heavy discounting lured shoppers into stores.

On the productivity front, efficiency gains are important to the economy's long-term vitality. They allow the economy to grow faster without igniting inflation. Companies can pay workers more without raising prices, which would eat up those wage gains. And productivity can bolster a company's profitability.

As profits improve, companies may be more willing to boost capital investment and hiring, which are critical factors in the recovery's durability. *AP*

Property firms build on '03 gains

BANGKOK/TOKYO—Asia's biggest developers look set to benefit from an upturn in property markets in 2004, but analysts expect stock price gains to be less spectacular than last year, when investors began to scent the turnaround.

Property prices in Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan have slumped since the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis, with sluggish global economic growth and the bursting of the technology bubble compounding problems for landlords.

But Asian property stocks tracked by Netherlands-based Global Property Research rose 36.3 percent in 2003, against 25.9 percent for Europe and 35 percent for the United States.

They beat a 22.1 percent rise in Asian equities as measured by the Morgan Stanley Capital Index Asia-Pacific.

Investor enthusiasm stems from hope a brighter global economy will drag the property business cycle from a trough and from the ability of big developers to adapt to harsh domestic conditions.

Some, such as Singapore's Capitaland Ltd. and Hong Kong's Cheung Kong Ltd., have sold buildings to the public through real estate investment trusts to raise money for projects in booming China.

Japanese developers Mitsui Fudosan and Mitsubishi Estate continued building regardless, finishing giant offices and fueling fears of massive oversupply last year, known as the "2003 problem." *Reuters*

Handog ni
Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Makabagong Infrastraktura Tungo sa Patuloy na Pag-unlad
MANILA-CAVITE TOLL EXPRESSWAY PROJECT (MCTEP)
LOCATION: From Airport Junction (Coastal Mall) to Noveleta, Including Coastal Road to South Luzon Expressway

Pres. Gloria presides over Groundbreaking rites for Cavite Coastal Road Extension

Here's one good news for Cavitenos.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the groundbreaking rites at 10 a.m. Saturday (February 7) to flash the green light for the construction of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road Extension project.

This was made possible after the funding requirement was secured during President Arroyo's state visit to the US in May last year through the International Finance Corp. which agreed to finance $70 million of the total project cost.

The balance is to be provided by the Project Proponent, UEM-MARA Philippines Corp. (UMPC) and a consortium of foreign investors. UMPC and Coastal Road Corp. will undertake the project in a joint venture with the Public Estates Authority (PEA) under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme.

The 11.3-kilometer, $117 million extension project, projected to be finished in 24 months, is one of the priority projects of the Arroyo administration.

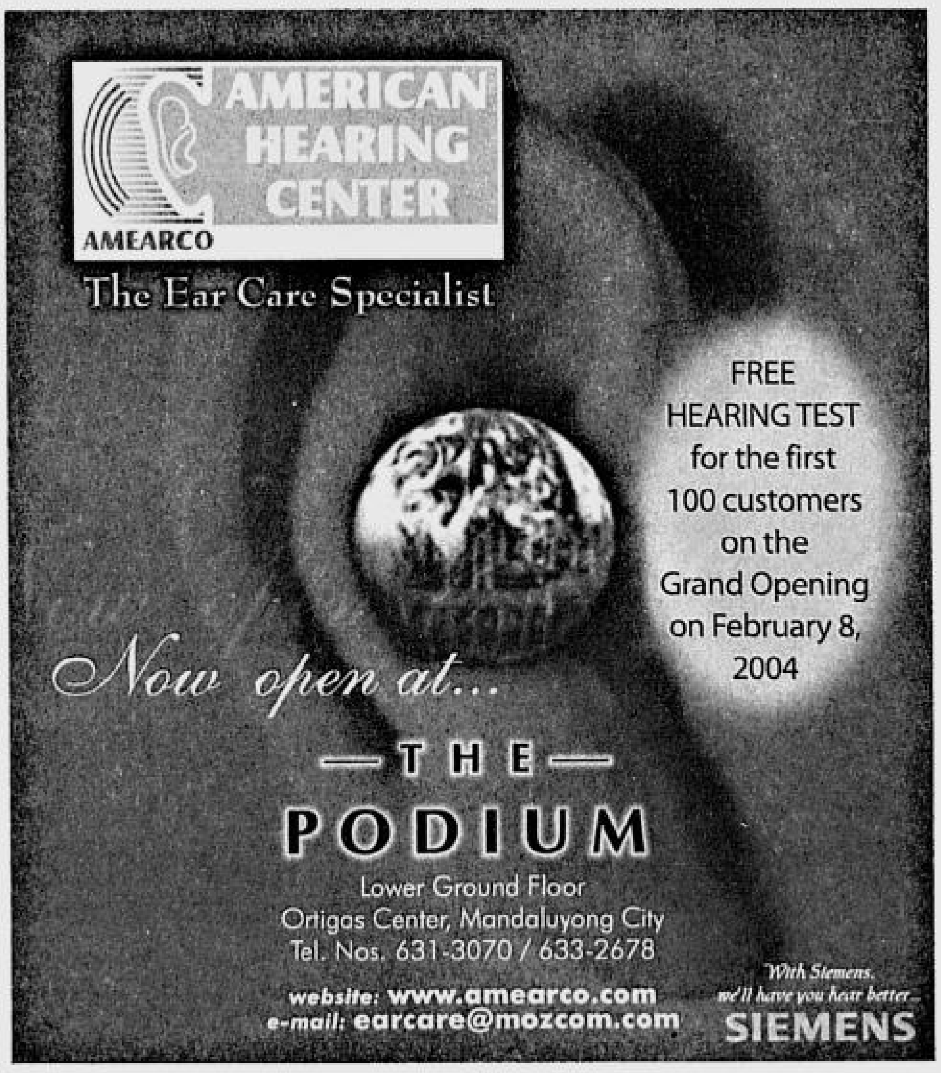
Cavitenos, through the provincial government of Cavite and the Cavite Development Council, have been clamoring for the construction of the project to solve the serious traffic gridlock from Zapote,Las Pinas to the towns of Bacoor, Kawit and Noveleta.

"This is one project of President Arroyo, we Cavitenos are grateful for. Aside from the significant cut in travel time from Manila to Noveleta and vice versa, the extension project will also entice investors to locate themselves at the Export Processing Zone in Rosario, Cavite. This is guaranteed to generate thousands of job opportunities for Cavitenos," said Rep. Plaridel Abaya.

According to the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project Proponent, the project requires the construction of a viaduct traversing Manila Bay from Zapote to Kawit (Segment 4) and from Kawit to Noveleta (Segment 5).

The viaduct concept of the project will cut the construction period by 12 months and reduce by approximately one hour the traveling time from Coastal Road at the Manila airport junction to Kawit, Cavite.

At present, the expressway covers a distance of 6.475 kilometers. Segment 4 will mean an additional 7 kilometers while Segment 5 has a distance of 4.3 kilometers.


AMERICAN HEARING CENTER
AMEARCO
The Ear Care Specialist

FREE HEARING TEST for the first 100 customers on the Grand Opening on February 8, 2004

Now open at...
THE PODIUM
Lower Ground Floor
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 631-3070 / 633-2678
website: www.amearco.com
e-mail: earcare@mozcom.com

"With Siemens, we'll have you hear better..."
SIEMENS

BMW optimistic on 2004 sales

SINGAPORE—Luxury German carmaker BMW remains confident about sales and profit prospects in 2004 despite the strength of the dollar and weak start to the year in the United States, Chief Executive Helmut Panke said on Friday.

"We'll see record high sales again in the United States this year, so January definitely was not a pointer. We're still very optimistic, not just for the USA, about sales this year," Panke told Reuters.

BMW releases its profits for 2003 on March 11 and has previously said the results would be in line with 2002's figure of 3.3 billion euros. *Reuters*

Take your business to greater heights:
1-800-100-BizDSL
BizDSL
Call us for more details about NETWORK-TO-GO
Wire-Free-Deal with BizDSL

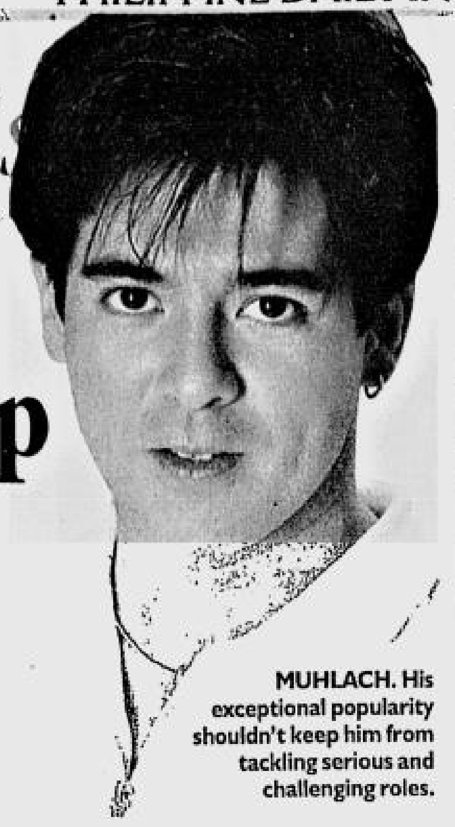
E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

After 20 years, Aga is still on top

By Nestor U. Torre



MUHLACH. His exceptional popularity shouldn't keep him from tackling serious and challenging roles.

AGA Muhlach was feted on Channel 2's "ASAP Mania" last Sunday for remaining a big TV-film star 20 years after he first made his mark in the movies in the film, "Bagets."

Aga deserves the fuss that's being made over his "double 10" anniversary in the biz, because many of his contemporaries have stopped performing, while he remains the country's top romantic-comedy male lead. The fact that he's also our most popular and in-demand male product endorser doesn't hurt, either.

Teen movie

When Aga appeared in "Bagets," he was only one of some six young male leads who were being showcased in the teen movie. And yet, he dominated the film with his huge, expressive orbs and sensitive performance:

After "Bagets," Aga caught the eye of the late, great Lino Brocka, who cast him in "Miguelito," a movie that further honed and showcased his unusual gift as an actor.

But quality movies didn't make him popular at the box office. And his film fortunes further plummeted when he and Janice de Belen had an affair that produced a love child.

Both Aga and Janice were much too young to be saddled with the responsibilities of parenthood, and their careers suffered due to it. For a long while, Aga couldn't seem to reenergize his acting career.

Low period

But his talent was still there, so we went out of our way to cite his few performances during that low period in his life and career.

AFTER/ C2

Aiza is a record producer's delight

By Remy M. Umerez

DO you know that "Pagdating ng Panahon" was not even in the list of approved songs when Aiza Seguerra waxed her comeback album? It was a last-minute decision to include the song because the lineup lacked one more track. Well, "Pagdating" made music history and will forever be identified as Aiza's signature song.

SEGUERRA. Professionalism and dedication personified.

Team effort

Choosing the songs for an album is never easy. In Aiza's case, it's a team effort. Her team includes a group of demo girls who have a feel of what the market wants, since they deal with CD buyers every day.

For her latest effort, "Sabi ng Kanta," the team considered 20 songs. The compositions which got the most votes made it to the final list.

Says Aiza: "I see to it that my family and friends listen to the songs, and I solicit their comments. What is beautiful to my ears might be the opposite to them!

"I am entitled to make suggestions. For

AIZA/ C2

onstage 2nyt

	WISEGUYS U-TURN	PLS PRESENT THIS COUPON & GET 5% DISCOUNT ON CASH ONLY ☎ 671.3303
Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	THINKERS/JOGRAD EMMANUELLE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	CRO MAGNON HEADWORKZ ZEST	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 6AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	PHRYGIAN CROSSTOWN	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	AFTER 8 KOOLJACKS	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FREEZE MUSIC CIRCUIT	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SEVEN PAGES RHYTHM ACE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	FIRST SIGHT 3RD MOVEMENT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	KENDI VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE

FEBRUARY 07 SATURDAY 438-3942

SUNDAY 'Potluck' Party at Fuente Circle

EAT-ALL-YOU-CAN for only P375.00 for adults P220.00 for kids below 4 ft.

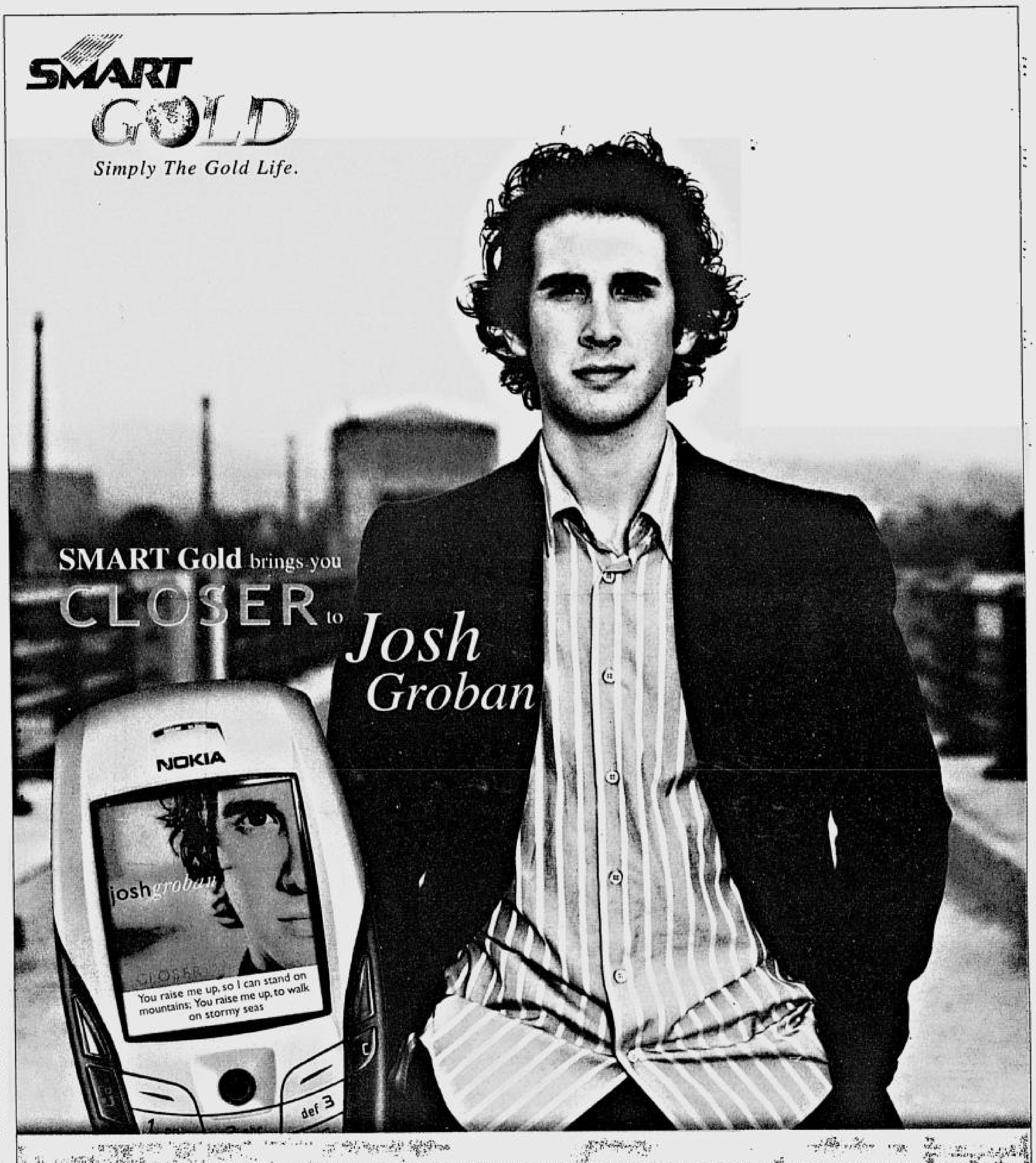
Fuente Circle at Eastwood City Walk turns into one big al fresco party place every Sunday night. Come bring the whole family and get your fill of food and fun starting at 6 PM.

Amoeba • Café Adriatico • Cable Car • Chicago Roadhouse
Bargo • Sari-Sari Cafeteria • Mama Rosa • West Lake

Eastwood City

Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Quezon City • Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

FUENTE
CIRCLE



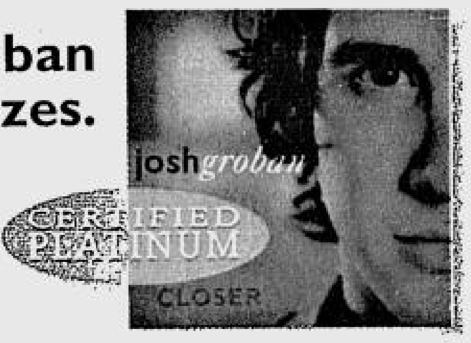
SMART GOLD
Simply The Gold Life.
SMART Gold brings you CLOSER to Josh Groban
NOKIA
josh groban
CLOSER
You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains; You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas

Get exclusive access to the latest Josh Groban downloadables for a chance to win great prizes.

Download tones and images, based on Josh Groban's new CD "Closer", to earn points. The more points you earn, the greater your chances of winning:

- GRAND PRIZE - Nokia 6600
- Daily Prize - Josh Groban CD "Closer"

Type JOSH and send to 209



The new studio album with 14 new songs including "You Raise Me Up", "Broken Vow", and "She's Out Of My Life."

KARAOKE
Type K <keyword> <phone type> and send to 209.

You're Still You	JG2
Broken Vow	JG3
The Prayer	JG5

AND SEND TO 209.

RINGTONES
Type TONE <keyword> and send to 209.
Type POLY <keyword> and send to 209.

You Raise Me Up	JG1
Broken Vow	JG3
To Where You Are	JG4
The Prayer	JG5
Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)	JG6
She's Out Of My Life	JG11

AND SEND TO 209.

LOGOS
Type LOGO <keyword> and send to 209.

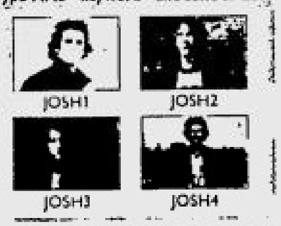
JOSH2
JOSH3

PICTURE MESSAGES
Type PIC <keyword> and send to 209.

JOSH2
JOSH4

AND SEND TO 209.

MMS Wallpapers
Type MMS <keyword> and send to 209.



AND SEND TO 209.

Powered by: Entertainment Gateway Group
Warner Music Philippines

Text messages are charged P2.50. Logos, Picture Messages, MMS images, Ringtones, and Polytones are P15.00 each. Karaoke Songs are P30.00 each.

To activate your GPRS and MMS, send GPRS ON and MMS ON to 333. Exclusive to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Addict Mobile subscribers.

Promo is from January 31 to February 29, 2004.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0148, Series of 2004.

Sequels crowd movie lineup

LOS ANGELES—You'd think there isn't an original idea left in Hollywood with all the sequels, spinoffs and remakes crowding the 2004 movie lineup.

Savory characters

Yet, fans are not likely to complain, considering the savory characters featured in this year's many retreads, which include about two dozen sequels and prequels and at least a dozen updates of old movies or TV shows.

The three heavy hitters arrive in quick succession during the busy summer season:

—"Shrek 2" premieres in May, as the animated ogre with the Scottish brogue (again voiced by Mike Myers) accompanies his princess bride Fiona (Cameron Diaz) to meet her parents, with their pal Donkey (Eddie Murphy) along for the ride. Julie Andrews and John Cleese join the voice cast as Shrek's disapproving in-laws, and Antonio Banderas provides the voice of crafty cat Puss-in-Boots.

—"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" debuts in June, with author J.K. Rowling's boy sorcerer (Daniel Radcliffe) and his chums (Rupert Grint and Emma Watson) in their third year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

This time, the gang faces an escaped convict (Gary Oldman) who's coming after Harry for mysterious reasons. Michael Gambon replaces the late Richard Harris as wise headmaster Dumbledore.

"HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN." J.K. Rowling's boy wizard faces an escaped convict on his third year at Hogwarts. AP

Superhero

—"Spider-Man 2," opening over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, reunites director Sam Raimi with Marvel Comics' anxious-teen-turned-superhero Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire), girl-next-door Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) and Peter's pal Harry Osborn (James Franco).

Now a college student, webmaster Peter battles new super-villain Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina), who has been transformed into the tentacled "Doc Ock."

While most sequels pump up the action, Raimi chose to ratchet up the moral and personal dilemmas and private quandaries that set "Spider-Man" apart from many Hollywood franchises, and helped turn it into a $400 million mega-hit.

More intimate

"The next one is going to seem a little smaller and more intimate. I hope people are not hoping it's bigger and better. Hopefully, they'll think it's smaller and better," Raimi said.

The sequel picks up two years after "Spider-Man," which ended with Peter turning his back on his great love, Mary Jane, realizing it was a sacrifice he had to make to travel the high road with his superpowers.

"Harry Potter" fans who want to see every detail from the books translated into the screen versions might be uneasy over the projected length of "Prisoner of Azkaban." Director Alfonso Cuaron expects to bring the movie in at less than 2½ hours, the shortest of the series so far.

On the other hand, Andrew Adamson felt a bit artistically constricted on "Shrek 2" because he felt he and his collaborators wrapped up the 2001 original too neatly, making it tougher to develop the sequel.

Romantic mayhem

Adamson's main beef: He wishes they had not let Shrek and Fiona marry at the end of the first film. The filmmakers could have strung out the romantic mayhem in the sequel if the two had yet to tie the knot, Adamson said.

"But it actually forced us to push the story through more twists and turns and prevented us from letting the film fall back into sequel cliches," Adamson.

Among the twists: Turns out Shrek wasn't the fairy-tale true love meant for Fiona, after all. A guy named Prince Charming was (Rupert Everett provides the voice of the unlucky-at-love prince).

While the filmmakers had not been thinking sequel on the first "Shrek," they have left more leeway to continue the story after the new installment, Adamson said. *AP*

After 20 years, Aga is still on top

From page C1

We felt that it wasn't right that some people were branding Aga a has-been so early in his life as an actor, so we tried to provide a more positive take on the situation.

In time, Aga's career did perk up, as he made a name for himself, first in romantic comedies on the big screen, then in a string of TV sitcoms.

Today, Aga may be in his 30s, but his starrers are still clicking with TV-film viewers, and he keeps getting paired with the top young actresses in the land.

Exceptional success

In fact, the only problem with Aga's exceptional success these days is the fact that it's kept him from tackling serious and challenging roles on the big and small screens.

Thus, we urge him to come up with a special and truly substantial film this year, to make his 20th anniversary in the biz a truly meaningful celebration.

Special gift

That dramatic film would go a long way in reminding viewers of Aga's special gift as an actor, which of late has been upstaged by his popularity as a TV-movie lead and product endorser.

Aga owes it to his loyal followers and to himself to go back to his thespic roots and come up with a memorable film to remind everyone who's truly the boss in the biz!

Aiza . . .

From page C1

instance, I requested Edith Gallardo to write lyrics for the song 'Kaya Nga Ikaw (Ang Aking Minahal),' the melody for which I supplied."

New composers

Aiza welcomes new composers. She is discouraging the practice of having an album monopolized by one songwriter because the selections may all sound the same.

Aiza is a producer's delight because of her professionalism and cooperation.

Steven Tan, Vicor president affirms, "I have never seen an artist who is as dedicated to her craft!"

Like daughter, like mother

By Nestor U. Torre

As the self-appointed president of the unofficial Mother Angelica Fan Club of the Philippines, I join the EWTN head's many other admirers in praying for her full recovery this year.

Mother was felled by a stroke sometime back, so she hasn't been able to resume hosting her very popular and inspiring program on her Eternal Word Catholic Network, which is viewed by tens of millions of people worldwide.

Loyal viewers

That's a big loss to Mother's loyal viewers, but until she's well enough to tape some new shows, we content ourselves with watching replays of her program on EWTN (Channel 63 on SkyCable).

Aside from praying and viewing, we also honor Mother by reading books about her, like Dan O'Neill's "Mother Angelica, Her Life Story." We're particularly glad that we read O'Neill's book, because we learned some things we didn't know before about our favorite tele-evangelist.

Hers is a story of "radical Christian faith in action," because she built her now far-reaching network practically from scratch, and despite dire predictions of utter failure by many well-meaning people.

Physical ailments

Mother Angelica also had to contend with many severe physical ailments, but she never allowed them to slow her down. And she's philosophical about her suffering, sharing: "To me, pain is a treasure. Of course, it becomes terribly difficult at times, but next to my vocation, it has been the cause of many graces.

"I know that, on my own, I can accomplish nothing. Pain makes me dependent on God for everything. It keeps me with Jesus. It is a gift, a kind of security that keeps me from becoming proud and arrogant, or from taking credit for what God is doing."

MOTHER Angelica (left) walks alongside her mother, Sr. Mary David, in wheelchair.

But the most instructive part of O' Neill's book is the chapter that narrates the unique story of how Mother Angelica and her own mother ended up in the same order:

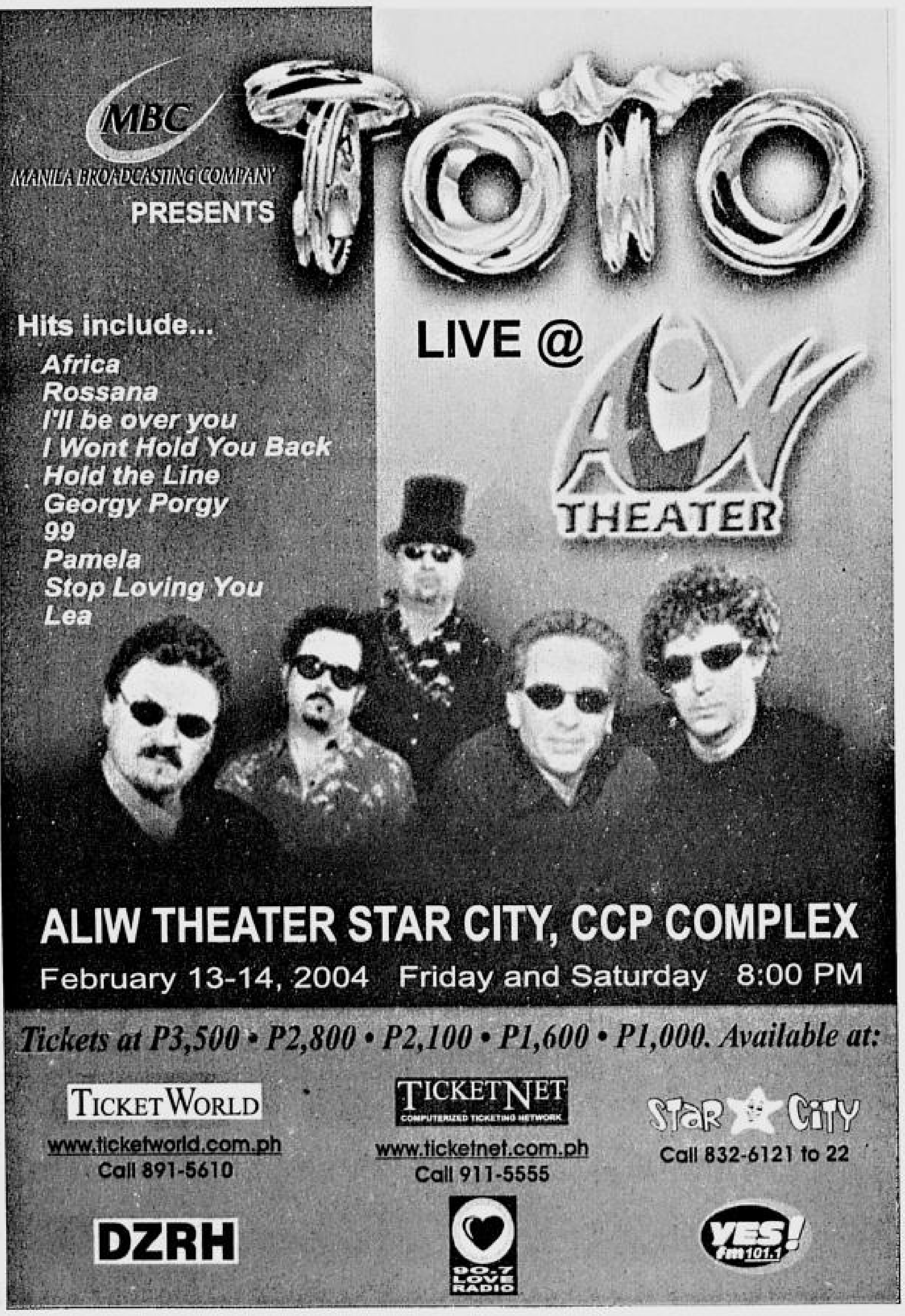
Pioneering a new monastery with Sister Joseph, Mother rented a house attached to the building project. There was much to do, so they needed a new member of the community to keep house, cook and entertain guests. This would free Mother to raise funds and supervise the construction work.

This is where it becomes interesting: "The new Sister was thinking of becoming an extern Sister with the intention of permanently joining the cloistered life. They invited her to join them immediately. Her name was Mae Frances Rizzo—Mother Angelica's mother!

Turn of events

"In a turn of events that neither mother nor daughter could have predicted in their wildest speculations only a few years earlier, Angelica had become a Mother, Mae a Sister, together again in a religious family-community."

(To be concluded)



MBC
MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY
PRESENTS
TOTO
LIVE @ ALIW THEATER

Hits include...
Africa
Rossana
I'll be over you
I Wont Hold You Back
Hold the Line
Georgy Porgy
99
Pamela
Stop Loving You
Lea

ALIW THEATER STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
February 13-14, 2004 Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM

Tickets at P3,500 • P2,800 • P2,100 • P1,600 • P1,000. Available at:

TICKETWORLD
www.ticketworld.com.ph
Call 891-5610

TICKETNET
COMPUTERIZED TICKETING NETWORK
www.ticketnet.com.ph
Call 911-5555

STAR CITY
Call 832-6121 to 22

DZRH
90.7 LOVE RADIO
YES! fm 101.1

Ogie's new album gives love songs a fresh slant

By Noelani Torre

ON the cover of Ogie Alcasid's newest solo album, "Mga Kuwento ng Pag-ibig" (Viva), we see the singer sitting in a field of flowers clad in a shirt bedecked with pink blooms. The choice of apparel and milieu is a bit surprising, given the strong anti-pink and anti-flowery machismo tendencies of the average Pinoy male (but then again, one can't really classify Ogie in that category, despite his Pinoy *na* Pinoy looks).

Hard-earned fame

Though the photo dangerously leans toward schmaltziness, he looks supremely at home in the set-up—as he does in all the other shots in the inlay—showing us the self-assurance brought about by talent and hard-earned fame.

The album, which has been doing very well sales-wise, is proof of both. Ogie wrote and performed all the songs in it, and this reminds us that, unlike other singers, he writes most of his own material. And his is strong, chart-busting stuff, none of those mild co-written album space-fillers. A lot of his songs appeal to Pinoys, so much so that even his more recent works seem to be classics already.

Familiar tunes

In "Mga Kuwento ng Pag-ibig," he gives us 15 love songs, some of them familiar tunes, like "Kailangan Kita," which has become a soap opera theme song. The number of songs may have been intended, as the album also marks Ogie's 15 years in the biz.

Also included in the album is a duet with Regine Velasquez, "Magpakailanpaman," where the songbird turns soft-voiced and abandons, for the most part, her bent for strenuous vocal gymnastics.

Maybe it's because Ogie himself is not a showy performer. Though he can belt with the best, he's no indiscriminate belter, nor does he add unnecessary operatic flourishes to his singing.

We had a good listen with this CD, and it's mainly because aside from the songs being well-written, Ogie sings with unabashed enjoyment. He knows his material is pop, so he sings it the good old-fashioned way—lightly and with no vocal histrionics. We've been hearing so much arduous singing lately that it's a relief to listen to a singer who doesn't think he has to scream to the high heavens to give a good performance.

Ogie Alcasid
mga kuwento ng pag-ibig

ALCASID. No unnecessary operatic flourishes.

Common theme

The album is a mix of light and heavier tunes, held together by the common theme of love. Romantic love, of course—except for album-closer "Panginoon"—but in its different manifestations. Thus we hear songs that range from the plaintive "Kailan Ka Magiging Akin?" to the despairing "Di Ko Na Kayang Masaktan Pa" and the blissful "Lumilipad."

Love is a worn-out subject, but Ogie manages to give it a fresh slant, which is why his songs invariably end up at the top of the charts.

Album-opener, "Kayo Na Pala," for example, is about loss and accepting that loss, as encapsulated in the sad but non-self-pitying refrain of "*kayo na pala*." His other elaborations on the basic theme include long-distance love ("Kahit Na Malayo Ka"), hope and uncertainty ("Ikaw Na Nga Kaya?"), and faithfulness ("Pangako Ko Sa 'Yo," "Para Lang Sa 'Yo," "Hindi Magbabago"). He sings more about commitment and steadfastness, probably because he's already married, but it's never boring.

Ogie has always been a solid songwriter. He's no experimenter, but he looks at tired themes with fresh eyes and incisiveness, bringing back to life old stories that most people don't tell as well.

The incomparable Ann Miller remembered

By Behn Cervantes

ANN Miller, one of Hollywood's best tap dancers, passed away recently. We who were raised on her sumptuously grand and beautiful MGM musicals mourned her death deeply. Fortunately, her great skill, elan and vivacity have been captured on film, and her movies are now available on DVD.

Awesome

She was such a great dancer that she would invariably be paired only with the very best. She was first noticed dancing alongside Ginger Rogers in "Stage Door" in 1937.

Miller, the dark-haired Texan with the perfect set of legs, was tagged a dancer rather than as an actress, so her incredible skill may have stunted her rise as a star. More often, she played supporting roles, pitting her dancing prowess with the esteemed likes of Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Marge and Gower Champion, Vera Ellen and Betsy Garret.

Any number she did was a showstopper, overflowing with energy, style and great sophistication. To this day, I can't forget her dance numbers in "Kiss Me Kate," "Easter Parade" and "On The Town."

Record

She is supposed to have set a record for tap, producing more than 500 sounds in one minute! What made her even more delightful was her (seemingly) effortless rendition of the most intricate steps.

Miller felt she was underrated and underused as an actress. However, I remember her in "The Opposite $ex," a 1956 version of Claire Boothe Luce's "The Women," where she played a non-musical role. Her comic timing and body language were greatly aided by her dancing and musical background.

Ann Miller belongs to Hollywood's pantheon of dance, along with the likes of Eleanor Powell, Ginger Rogers, Vera Ellen and the remarkable Cyd Charisse. With her death at the ripe, old age of 81, a fabulous era has truly passed away.

MILLER. Any number she did was a showstopper.

Mango at its best

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

(Conclusion)

AT the 2003 Asian Ethnic Food Festival, the mango was presented as mousse, tart, pie, and preserve. Mango flatware included unique two-tined forks for spearing the big seed and eating it.

Accessories

A ceramic bowl was even designed with three hollow spaces—one for each slice of mango and the seed in between them. Accessories carrying the mango motif included table linen, candleholders and pendant lighting or chandeliers with mango decorations.

Interpretations were executed in three design directions: Neo-modern with strong colors, but contemporary and practical; Luxe with subdued colorations, but more formal and luxurious; and Zen, Oriental minimalist, restrained and done in natural colors.

Filart's nudes

Give yourself a chance to consider the naked female form with feelings other than lust, shock or disdain. This is what Carlos Filart asks of the audience as he presents his collection of 50 nudes until Feb. 9 at Galerie Astra, Art Pavilion, LRI Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia st., (formerly Reposo), Makati City. Call 911-9694 and 0917 821-1513.

Digital Photoworkshop

The three-day sessions in our Digital Photoworkshop include hands-on exercises and critique on Feb. 7, 21 and 22 and Mar. 6, 13 and 20. Call 896-3208 or e-mail mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph.

Ressa. . .

From page C4

Another engaging chapter is "Gangsters in the Philippines," in which she describes the operations of the Abu Sayyaf and the way some journalists pay significant sums of money for access to terrorists. She cited one German journalist who didn't learn his lesson and returned to the camp only to be kidnapped and ransomed a second time!

Complexity

This is the kind of book that all concerned individuals should read to be able to understand the grave complexity of international terrorism. Citing the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle in Quantum Physics that says "one cannot find the location of an electron at this precise moment because the very act of trying to locate it pushes us somewhere else," Ressa says, "The minute one of the terrorists' ideas is revealed, they react and metamorphose into something else."

Puzzle

The book is an outstanding work in investigative journalism and readers will marvel at the author's organization of ideas in piecing together a giant jigsaw puzzle of documents, and at the simplicity and clarity of her writing.

But Ressa's brilliance truly gleams in her analysis of and insights into various implications of terrorism these days, when everybody, it seems, is living dangerously.

www.lacoste.com

LACOSTE

TIMESTUDIO Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Sm Megamall Ortigas • SM City Bicutan • SM City Bacoor • SM City Pampanga • SM City Baguio
Festival Mall • SM Department Store Makati • SM Department Store Lucena • SM Department Store Marilao
SM Department Store North Edsa • Robinson's Galleria • Robinson's Place Ermita • All Leading Watch Retailers Nationwide

LACOSTE Chaussures: Ayala Center • Powerplant Mall • The Podium • Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Robinson's Place Ermita
Boutiques: Alabang Town Center • SM Megamall • Greenbelt 3 • Rustan's Shangri-La Mall
Rustan's Makati • Robinson's Place Ermita • Robinson's Galleria

Discover the Power of Acupuncture & Acupressure Healing

The Uncommon CURE for COMMON pains:

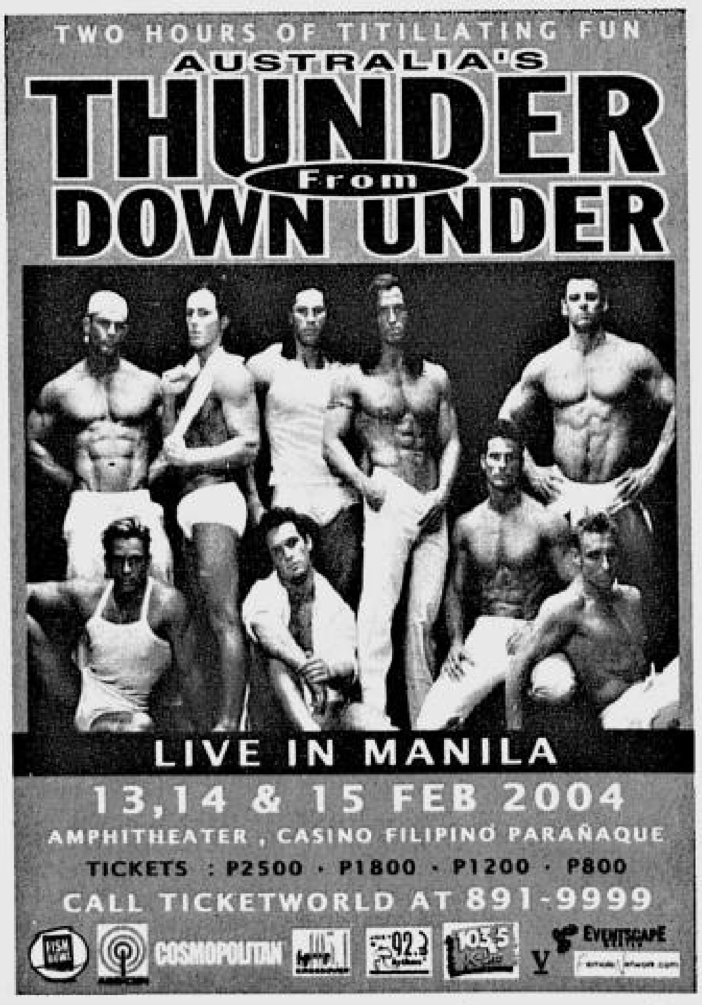
Stress
Diabetes
Osteoporosis
Appetite Suppression
Migraine
Cough/Colds
Eating Disorders
Lower Back Pains
Neck & Shoulder Pains

Free initial consultation
For your convenience, please call our hotline nos. for reservations:
631-2611 • 631-4210 • 631-2742
631-9872 • 634-5689 • 631-4793

SynergyMed Center

23/F Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
E-mail: www.fp-synergymed.com

Acupuncture P750 only • Acupressure P750 only
Other Services: Abdomen Vibration Therapy and Ear Acupoints Therapy


TWO HOURS OF TITILLATING FUN
AUSTRALIA'S
THUNDER From DOWN UNDER
LIVE IN MANILA
13,14 & 15 FEB 2004
AMPHITHEATER , CASINO FILIPINO PARAÑAQUE
TICKETS : P2500 · P1800 · P1200 · P800
CALL TICKETWORLD AT 891-9999

We've just added another feather to our cap!

INQUIRER Badminton *Monthly*

Get your copies from your favorite courts.

Jolina's voice is 'Annie B.' soundtrack's best asset

By Rito P. Asilo

THERE are no new songs in Jolina Magdangal's latest CD of the soundtrack for her upcoming Viva movie, "Annie B."

Nine songs

In fact, the nine songs featured in the "CD lite" soundtrack include four covers and their respective minus-one accompaniments for song-crazy Pinoys who wish to sing along with the familiar tunes.

It also includes a remixed version—albeit a disjointed one—of the title track featuring the wacky Salbakuta lending its hip-hop expertise to give the '70s OPM classic a contemporary groove.

Repertoire

Jolina's repertoire may have tenuous lyrical content, but her rich and naturally soulful voice, the album's best asset, makes utterly familiar tunes seem fresh and personal.

MAGDANGAL. Sings with real comprehension.

When Jolina sings, she bends, breaks and expertly sections her musical notes and vocal shifts with precision.

(She proves this further in her *other* new album, the GMA-produced full-length "Forever," with the carrier song, "Bahala Na.")

Her album may be muddled and addled with commercial froth, but more than being a slickly-produced package, "Annie B." goes beyond showcasing technically polished singing.

Power-belting divas are a dime a dozen these days. Many of them sing with a lot of vocal power, but without the emotional vulnerability needed to give life to their songs.

Magdangal, on the other hand, sings the musical narrative with real comprehension—she does power ballads with a voice that can suddenly intensify from seeming ennui to palpably empathetic longing, as she clearly demonstrates in Paul McCrane's "Is It Ok If I Call You Mine?"

High notes

Even when Jolina belts the high notes in her cover of Keith Martin's overused "Because of You" (particularly in the line: "You captured something inside me/ You made all of my dreams come true"), she demonstrates confident control of her vocal instrument, and refines her interpretations with alternating restraint and bravado.

Alvin Nunez and Marvin Querido create fresh arrangements that give Jolina's versions of VST's "Awitin Mo, Isasayaw Ko" and Hotdog's "Annie Batungbakal" distinctly winsome beats without compromising the OPM pop appeal that helped thrust these songs to the top of the charts when they were first released.

It makes you wonder, though, why the title track lacks the oomph that characterized the original version. —A case of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"?

PARK SPRING
San Pedro, Laguna

For Inquiries and tripping please call 850-1582 or 772-2745

HOUSE & LOT package for as low as P800,000

Soon to be accessible via the New San Pedro Interchange and Daang Hari

How to get there: From the South Luzon Expressway turn right at the Susana Heights Interchange. Take the Old National Highway towards San Pedro town proper and turn right on Magsaysay Road. Turn right again on Victoria Road past Tats Filipinas Golf Club and left to Park Spring gate.

A Quality Project Of CORTE BELLA
The Metro Homes Division of FILINVEST LAND, INC.
LICENSE TO SELL NO.: R4-98-06-0096
www.filinvest-land.com

Sales Managers are welcome to apply. E-mail us at hrd@filinvest-land.com or call us at 727-0431 loc. 250.

Video festival marks RP-Japan friendship celebrations

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

COINCIDING with celebrations marking Philippines-Japan Friendship Month, the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television is launching a video festival at the Baguio Museum today.

Among the videos to be featured are the animé production, "The Prince and the Sea of Corals" by Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, and values-laden animé presentations from Soka Gakkai International. ("The Prince and the Sea of Corals" will premiere on GMA-7 this April.)

The video festivals are supported by the Embassy of Japan, the Department of Education, NHK Broadcasting Corporation, SEAMEO-Innotech, Columbia International and Soka Gakkai International.

As a sidebar to the events, Yuri Fukunaga of REED Foundation Japan and other Japanese artists will give free craft demonstrations. The public is cordially invited to attend the Making Friends Through Video events.

Other Philippine-Japan Festival 2004 events this month:

Until Feb. 27, Philippines-Japan Relations: 1939 Onwards, at the Main Library, UP Diliman.

Until Feb. 7, Ikenobo 20th Anniversary Exhibition, Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Feb. 7, Japanese Speech Contest in Cebu.

Feb. 9-10, Japanese Film Showing at Trinity College. Feb. 12 at Ateneo de Manila University. Feb. 18 and 21, at the Nihongo Center.

Feb. 10, lecture of animé director Yasuhiro Imagawa in Cebu. Feb. 12, in Manila.

Feb. 11, Philippines-Japan Song and Dance Festival at University of Manila.

Feb. 13, Introduction to Japanese Culture, UP Iloilo.

Feb. 14, Filipino-Nihongo Singing Contest, Lyceum of the Philippines. *(To be concluded)*

Best of Spanish travel and culture

Spain's Tourism Board is showcasing the best of Spanish travel and culture at the Travel Tours expo ongoing until Feb. 8 at SM Megamall, at booths 2A and 3A.

This year, Spain is highlighting these events, among others:

May to September, the Universal Forum of Culture in Barcelona.

On May 22, the wedding of Crown Prince Felipe de Bourbon.

In September, the International Flamenco Music and Dance Festival in Seville.

The Centennial of Salvador Dali.

And XACOBEO (Camino de Santiago), Santiago de Compostela.

Agents for various travel programs to Spain include Journeys of Faith, Adams Travel, Mondial Tours and Travel, Prestige Travel, Travel Excellence and Voyagers Travel.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Feb. 7 at 11:45 a.m., "Apollo 13." Feb. 8 at 9:30 p.m., "Training Day." Feb. 9 at 11:45 a.m., "Vanilla Sky." Feb. 10 at 5 p.m., "Somewhere in Time." Feb. 11 at 2:15 p.m., "The Lost Boys." Feb. 12 at 9 p.m., "Spider-Man." Feb. 13 at 9:30 a.m., "Sister Mary Explains It All."

On Cinemax, Feb. 7 at 2:45 p.m., "The Money Pit." Feb. 8 at 3:45 p.m., "Strictly Ballroom." Feb. 9 at 3 p.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m., "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Feb. 11 at 8:15 a.m., "To Catch A Thief." Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m., "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Feb. 13 at 11:30 a.m., "Around the World in Eighty Days."

Featured singers at Café de Malate

Five singers are featured during the week at the Café de Malate on M. Ignacia st., Malate.

Apple Alindogan sings every Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesdays, it's Cindy Rosas' turn to charm the crowd with her repertoire of pop and standard songs.

Gem Ramos gets everyone dancing on Thursdays. And Nina Sanchez and Devvie Honig perform back to back on Fridays.

Café de Malate offers a 50 percent discount during happy hour on Saturdays.

Ressa's 'Seeds of Terror' reads like a spy thriller

By Ronald G. Mangubat

(Conclusion)

MARIA Ressa's eyewitness account could stir up negative emotions like shock, disbelief, anger, confusion and disturbance, but it is precisely with these stirrings that she drives her instructive points.

For example, after talking to investigators in different countries, collecting and analyzing intelligence reports and getting horrified at how information gets lost if someone doesn't see how it fits into the bigger picture, she concludes that one of the main problems of this war on terror is "the inability of law enforcement officials and investigators on the ground to share their information with one another, let alone with other nations."

She also explains why efforts to combat terrorist threats have only disrupted, not eliminated, the problem.

This, she says, is an important lesson about the seduction of Islam.

Bombings in Bali, beheadings in Mindanao, massacres in Malaysia—all of these acts of terrorism trace their roots to a central belief: "In Islam, if one person falls, we all fall ill. If one of us is hurt, we all feel the pain."

RESSA'S/ C3

NEW
SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
fun and games
zed
LUV
Believe in love.

Get the Luv services so your love life may live happily ever after!

VALENTONES - love songs
TEXTPRESSION - picture messages
SECRET SMS - anonymous texting
MATCHMAKING - compatibility test
LOVE JOKES - humor the heart
FLAMES - love calculator
SOULMATE SERVICE - sms dating game
MMXPRESSIONS - mms greeting cards
LOVE HOROSCOPE - love in the stars
LOVE QUOTE - inspiring words
LOVE TRIVIA - know love

LUV 1 TYPE IN LUV.
288 2 Send to 288. ₱2.50 per message sent.
www.smart.zed.com

Available to all SMART GSM subscribers.

Get a chance to win a fleet of 5 Mitsubishi Adventures! Register for free. Text DREAM to 232!
Per DTI-NCR Permit #6844, Series of 2003

Over ₱3.5 million in cool, cool prizes!
Send YULE to 288and download now!

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (₱1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SMART Simply Amazing!

SATURDAY *Special*

THERON. Her best actress citation for "Monster" boosts her film's box-office chances.

Films cash in on Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood studios have gone into overdrive following last week's Oscar nominations, in a bid to turn the prestigious nods for their films into box-office dollars.

Ticket sales

The annual race by studios to boost ticket sales and to influence Academy Awards voters to pick their movies for cinema's top honors took on added urgency this year after the awards season was cut short by an earlier than usual Oscars ceremony.

"An Oscar nomination can add millions to the box-office gross of a film, bringing in anywhere from 10 million to 100 million extra dollars," awards expert and author Tom O'Neil told AFP.

Movie moguls are now locked in a desperate battle to lure moviegoers into theaters, movie pundits said.

Studios behind nominated films such as "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," "Lost in Translation," "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" and "Cold Mountain" are already spending millions on new advertising.

The magic words "Oscar nominated" have now been added onto hastily prepared movie posters and a plethora of television and radio ads that are already flooding both the industry and mainstream press to woo audiences.

New appearances

Movies that had in some cases been off US screens for weeks were suddenly making new appearances in cinemas in cities such as Los Angeles and New York in the run-up to the Feb. 29 Oscars ceremony.

"A movie like 'Seabiscuit' will likely earn an additional $20 million in the US, while its nominations will help 'Lost in Translation' by at least $30 million," O'Neil said.

New Zealand director Peter Jackson's last episode of his celluloid version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" books became the Oscars frontrunner when it was nominated for 11 awards, including best picture and best director, more than any other picture.

The New Line Cinema film, which debuted in December, has already racked up more $350 million in ticket sales in the United States and Canada alone.

Also in competition is Miramax's American Civil War epic, "Cold Mountain," which picked up seven nods, including best actor for Jude Law and best supporting actress for Renée Zellweger, but left co-star Nicole Kidman and director Anthony Minghella out in the cold.

"Mystic River," from Warner Bros, is vying for six awards including best picture, best director for Clint Eastwood, best actor for Sean Penn, best supporting actor for Tim Robbins and best supporting actress for Marcia Gay Harden.

Smaller studios

Facing off against the titans are smaller, often independently produced movies that are being distributed by smaller studios, such as Brazilian drama "City of God," which has four nods, and Focus Features' "Lost in Translation," which also has four, including best picture and best director for Sofia Coppola.

Newcomer Newmarket got a double boost when the 13-year-old star of its "Whale Rider," Keisha Castle-Hughes, became the youngest ever best actress nominee, and when its "Monster," also won a best actress nod for Charlize Theron.

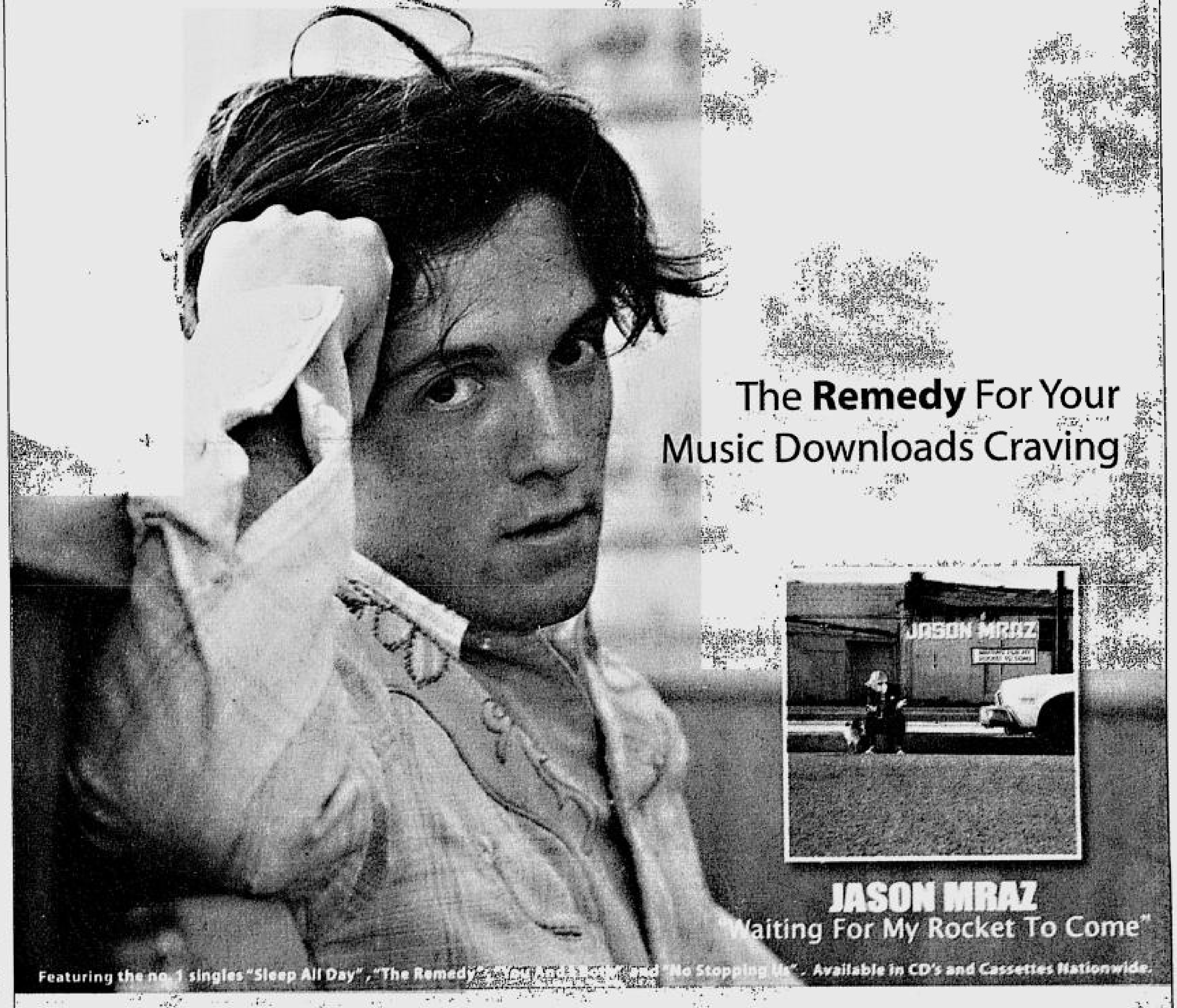
But this year, the studios face a new challenge—the gap between the nominations and the Oscars ceremony has been shortened to just 33 days from around six weeks in previous years.

"The shortness of the Oscar season means less money for everyone," O'Neil said. *AFP*

FERSAL HOTEL INN
Daily • Weekly • Monthly • 12 Hrs.
From P440-P1,700 NET 2 pax
CUBAO - 215 P. Tuazon St. (nr. Araneta Ctr.) 912-8000
CUBAO - 49 Annapolis St. (nr. Aurora Blvd.) 912-5452
MAKATI - 107 Neptune St. (nr. Makati Ave.) 897-0123
MANILA - 1455 A. Mendoza St. Sta. Cruz (nr. LRT) 742-7292
DILIMAN - 130 Kalayaan Ave. (nr. Q.C. Hall) 924-2089
Discount on weekly/monthly Stay
11th day FREE
☎911-2161
Inquiry@fersalinn.com
FERSAL PLACE HOTEL
DILIMAN - 131 Malakas St. (nr. Heart Ctr) 426-7978
FERSAL BAGUIO *Opening 2005*
FULLY FURNISHED • NICE ROOMS • CLEAN
Inn Café

SM
FOODCOURT
Valentine Treat!
free upsize on drink
for every 2 meals purchased with 2 Nestle Pink Lemonade
Promo runs from February 6 to 22

SMART Buddy Pre-paid
music
The freshest tones!


The Remedy For Your Music Downloads Craving
JASON MRAZ
"Waiting For My Rocket To Come"
Featuring the no. 1 singles "Sleep All Day", "The Remedy", "You And I Both" and "No Stopping Us". Available in CD's and Cassettes Nationwide.

Download tones and images of Jason Mraz and other artists for a chance to win ₱1 Million in the grand draw!
Plus, be one of the lucky 20 winners to meet and greet Jason Mraz in person.

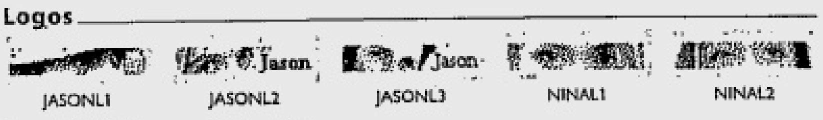
Text **MUSIC** to **209** now!

Tones

Song Tiles	Artist	Keywords
You And I Both	Jason Mraz	LUV34
I'll Do Anything	Jason Mraz	LUV35
Remedy (I Won't Worry)	Jason Mraz	LUV36
Sleep All Day	Jason Mraz	LUV37
Absolutely Zero	Jason Mraz	LUV38
No Stopping Us	Jason Mraz	LUV39
On Love, In Sadness	Jason Mraz	LUV40
Boy's Gone	Jason Mraz	LUV41
Jealous	Nina	LUV1
Foolish Heart	Nina	LUV2
Loving You	Nina	LUV3
Heaven	Nina	LUV4
Make You Mine	Nina	LUV5
A Girl Can Dream	Nina	LUV6
What If	Nina	LUV7
Sayang Naman	Nina	LUV8
Goodnight But Not Goodbye	Nina	LUV9
I'll Always Stay In Love This Way	Nina	LUV10
Still Gonna Be	Nina	LUV11
Can't Say I Love You	Nina	LUV12
Smile	Nina	LUV13
Because Of You	Keith Martin	LUV14
Groovy Kind Of Love	Phil Collins	LUV15
How Do I Live	Trisha Yearwood	LUV23

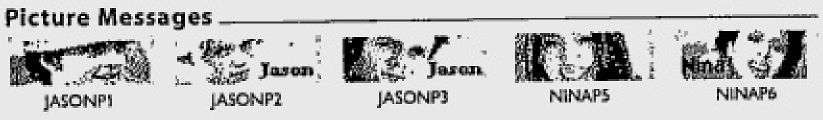
Text **TONE** <keyword> to **209**
Text **POLY** <keyword> to **209**

Logos



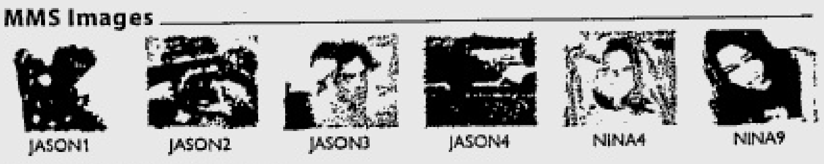
Text **LOGO** <keyword> to **209**

Picture Messages



Text **PIC** <keyword> to **209**

MMS Images



Text **MMS** <keyword> to **209**

Plus, get a FREE Musiclink Celfone Pouch when you subscribe to these services.

To get	Send to 209
Logo Daily	WOW LOGO
Picture Message Daily	WOW PIC
Colored Wallpaper Weekly	WOW MMS
Monotone Weekly	WOW TONE
Polytone Weekly	WOW POLY
Spotlight Update Daily	SPOTLIGHT ON
Events Update	WOW GIG
Music News	WOW NEWS

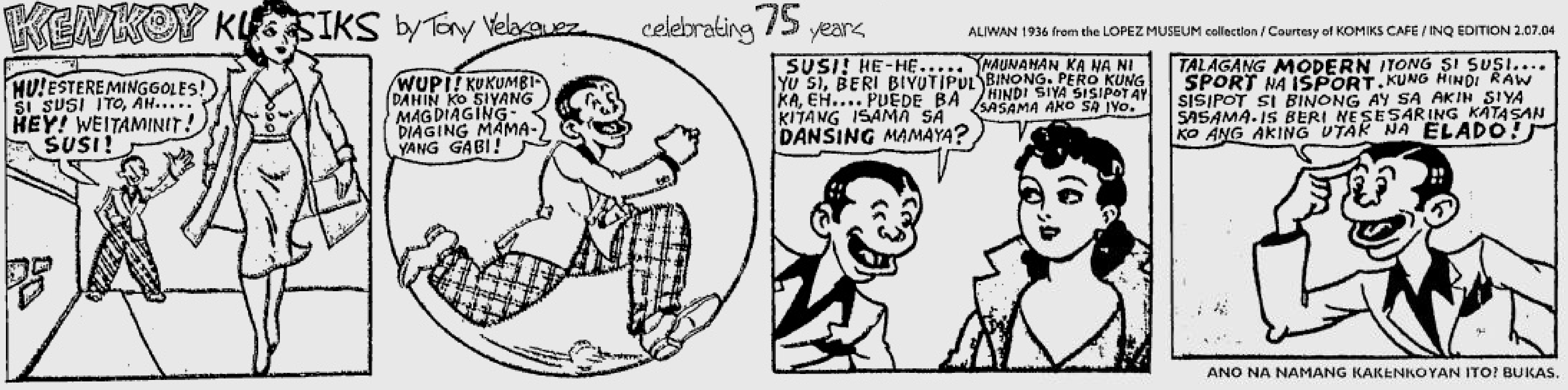
In cooperation with: WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES
Powered by:

Promo Period: February 1, 2004 - April 17, 2004.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SMART
Simply Amazing!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0286, Series of 2004.

KENKOY KL SIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

ALIWAN 1936 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 2.07.04


HU! ESTEREMINGGOLES! SI SUSI ITO, AH..... HEY! WEITAMINIT! SUSI!
WUP! KUKUMBIDAHIN KO SIYANG MAGDIAGING-DIAGING MAMAYANG GABI!
SUSI! HE-HE..... YU SI, BERI BIYUTIPUL KA, EH.... PUEDE BA KITANG ISAMA SA DANSING MAMAYA?
NAUNAHAN KA NA NI BINONG. PERO KUNG HINDI SIYA SISIPOT AY SASAMA AKO SA IYO.
TALAGANG MODERN ITONG SI SUSI.... SPORT NA ISPORT. KUNG HINDI RAW SISIPOT SI BINONG AY SA AKIN SIYA SASAMA. IS BERI NESESARING KATASAN KO ANG AKING UTAK NA ELADO!

ANO NA NAMANG KAKENKOYAN ITO? BUKAS.

Tough competition for lead acting honors at 2004 Academy Awards

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S dark grit vs. light-hearted fun at the Oscars this year. Fifty eight-year-old golden girl Diane Keaton ("Something's Gotta Give") squares off with 28-year-old Charlize Theron, who gets "uglified" in Patty Jenkin's true-to-life film adaptation on the life of Aileen Wuornos, one of America's first female serial killers.

Also in the running for best actress are Naomi Watts ("21 Grams"), Samantha Morton ("In America") and 13-year-old New Zealand first-timer Keisha Castle-Hughes, who pulled an upset with her performance in "Whale Rider."

Endearing comedy

In Nancy Meyers' "Something's Gotta Give," a delightfully endearing romantic comedy that focuses on "older" demographics, Keaton plays Erica Barry, the 56-year-old playwright-mother of the twentysomething girlfriend of 63-year-old record mogul Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson).

Sanborn suffers a heart attack at Erica's house. Against her will, Erica has to take care of him until his dashing doctor (Keanu Reeves) gives him the go signal to travel. Problem is: Harry falls in love with Erica as she struggles to fend off the amorous advances of the handsome physician—and the confused writer is suddenly torn between the two men!

KEATON. Plays mature woman torn between two lovers.

Crying binges

Keaton's crying binges as she valiantly tries to write about her romantic dilemma are definitely worth the golden statuette. But comedic performances always get passed up for supposedly "more substantial" dramatic roles.

When Nicholson delivers his line, "I'm 63 years old, and I'm in love. —For the first time in my life!," you can't help but be inspired by the movie's message of love-at-any-age, one that gives the older set something to smile and rave about.

We have yet to see Inarritu's "21 Grams" and Sheridan's "In America," but after watching "Monster," the gritty Theron-produced film about a disturbed prostitute who can't resist killing clients who use and abuse her, it's hard to imagine more gripping material for an actress to sink her thespic teeth into.

The disturbing albeit flawed film, which focuses on Wuornos' nine-month killing spree between 1989 and 1990, showcases an unflinchingly honest performance from Theron as the lesbian lover of Selby Wall (an equally sensitive Christina Ricci). But comparisons to Hilary Swank's Academy Award-winning turn in 1999's "Boys Don't Cry" can't be avoided.

The difference lies not only in Theron's total physical transformation but also in her complete immersion in the role of the morally bankrupt Wuornos—a feat that, in itself, deserves an Oscar.

Patriarchal tribe

We viewed Niki Caro's "Whale Rider," about a girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe who believes she's destined to be her tribe's new chief despite its age-old tradition of picking male leaders, when it was shown at last year's Cinemanila. While we knew that Keisha Castle-Hughes delivered an indelibly winsome performance (which we noted in our Cinemanila capsules last year), we're simply blown away by what she has achieved—she booted out the likes of Nicole Kidman ("Cold Mountain") from the final five—at age 13, for a movie shot two years earlier! And to think she vowed never to make another movie again!

We hear, though, that she will be in George Lucas' "Star Wars, Episode 3" next year. Win or lose, Keisha has already made Oscar history.

So far, Theron has won the nods of the Broadcast Film Critics, National Society of Film Critics, the San Francisco Film Critics groups and the Golden Globe drama category. Keaton, on the other hand, won at the National Board of Review and in the Golden Globes' comedy category. Naomi Watts topped the LA and Southeastern Film Critics groups, while Morton won over the Toronto Critics group for "Morvern Callar," *not* for the Jim Sheridan film. *(To be concluded)*

Sunshine has learned a lot from her car accident

By Jocelyn Valle

SUNSHINE Dizon is upset about persistent talk that she deliberately rammed her BMW on Pioneer st. in Mandaluyong City, injuring her right knee in the process. "I saw death when that happened," she told us in an interview, stressing that it was an accident.

Subconscious

"My whole life flashed before my eyes," she recalls the moment she was lying bloodied in her car. "I heard people saying, *'Patay na yata.' Naniwala ang* conscious mind *ko na baka nga patay na ako,* but my subconscious was telling me: 'You can't die like this!' So, I fought back."

The painful thought of leaving her family behind strengthened Sunshine's will to live. "I told myself that I couldn't die because my mom needs me," she avers. *"Sa mga pagkakataon palang ganun, hindi mo na maiisip 'yung pera, 'yung trabaho—iisipin mo na lang* how your loved ones could continue with their normal life without you.

"I was especially worried about my mom. I'm her best friend. *Kalahati s'ya ng buhay ko."*

Operation

Small wonder then that, upon waking up after an operation on her damaged knee, Sunshine looked for her mom. "I was praying for God to give her strength. *At sana, hindi maapektuhan ang puso n'ya."*

Sunshine says she's learned a lot from the accident—treasuring every moment with her family (dad Isagani, mom Dorothy and older siblings Khottie and Richard). "I'm not a perfect daughter and sister, but I do my best," she beams.

Instinct

"At saka, 'yung sinasabi nilang mother's instinct, *totoo 'yan,"* she grins. *"Dati,* when my mother would tell me something, I'd say, *wala 'yan.* Now, when she feels bad about something, I give in, *kasi wala namang mawawala kung maniwala ako."*

The feisty former child star hasn't let that near-death experience rule her life. Sunshine has begun driving again, albeit just around White Plains, where she lives with her family — and a lot more carefully now!

Oprah at 50

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday, top talk show host Oprah Winfrey celebrated her 50th birthday, a landmark event that was cheered by her many fans. It provided them with a golden opportunity to praise and thank Oprah for her many accomplishments and contributions.

She has been hailed as the most inspiring black person in the media. Her weekday talk show has been on the tube for 18 years, and has outlasted many of its competitors, including a host of sleazier talk and scandal shows that eventually fell out of favor with viewers.

Potential

Oprah's talk show has become *sui generis,* in a league of its own, because the host-producer has refused to pander to viewers' basest interests, and has instead given them inspiring fare that encourages them to develop their potential.

She "shocked" the TV industry when she started a book club on her show that motivated millions of people to rediscover the pleasures of reading. Observers thought that this overly literary bent would cause the ratings of Oprah's show to plunge, but they held steady.

Taste

This proved that the very same viewers whose taste was looked down on by other program hosts were willing and even eager to better themselves, and to rise above the "least common denominator" programming that they had been cynically fed by other shows for many years.

After Oprah got this affirmation that her viewers loved being taken seriously, there was no stopping her. She put up the Angel Network, which rewarded good works all over the globe. She guested inspiring people like Nelson Mandela to motivate her viewers to similarly live their lives for others.

WINFREY. Most inspiring black person in media.

But not everything is super-serious on "Oprah." She enjoys having a good laugh (even at her own expense), teaching her viewers how to whip up interesting dishes in the kitchen, or going into makeovers—not just of their appearance, but also of their mind-set.

Her resident therapist, Dr. Phil, became so popular with his no-nonsense comments that he now has his own TV show.

Generosity

A special quality of Oprah's show is its utter generosity. People love being in the program's studio audience because Oprah makes sure that they get a lot of freebies—some of them, quite valuable.

If the topic is new electronic gadgets, all of the members of the studio audience are gifted with the gadgets being talked about!

But that's just the icing on Oprah's cake. We love her because she's proven that selfless television can become a big hit, and that people want to be the best they can be. In the cynical world of commercial TV, those "notions" are well-nigh revolutionary!

So, here's to many more years of "Oprah." And may Ms Winfrey's sterling example motivate our own TV people to stop being so self-obsessed, and to similarly think of their viewers' welfare—for a change!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB 7 - FEB 13

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
	6.00 Star in A Million 6.30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8.30 Home Along da Airport 9.00 Victim 9.30 Buttercup 10.30 Kontrobersyal 11.30 "F" 12.00 Sports Unlimited	5.00 Asian Boxing Championship 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 9:00 Cardiff Wales World Pool Championship 2003	7.00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Viva Box Office 11.00 The New Adventures of Robinhood	6.00 Search for a Star 7.00 Imbestigador 8.00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9.30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10.30 Celebrity Turns 11.30 Flash Report 12.00 Master Showman	6.00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7.00 7 Days 8.00 John Doe 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 PGMA	5.00 PEMSEA 7.00 Global Family Series 8.00 Homecoming sa Trese 10.00 A Legacy of Heroes 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6.00 Baywatch 7.00 Game Plan 7.30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deel	6.00 Agila Reports 6.30 Screen Savers 7.30 Euromaxx 8.00 Car Guys 8.30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 Pasugo	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos
	5.30 Sharon 7.00 Wansapanataym 8.30 Tanging Ina 9.30 24 10.00 Sunday Family Cinema 11.30 Dong Puno Tonight 12.00 The Weekend News	6.00 Asian Boxing Championship 9.00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6.00 Restol 6.30 Guyferd 7.00 Sing-Galing 8.00 Ispup atpb 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7.00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office 11.20 Flash Report 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6.00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 May Puso ang Batas 9.00 Sunday's Big Event *The Skateboard Kid 2* 11:00 URRC TV	6.00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 KBP Documentary 8.00 A Legacy of Heroes 9.00 Flame in the Wind 11.00 MTV 11.30 El Shaddai	6.00 Sponge Bob 6.30 Mr Bean 7.00 Exposed 8.00 Spin City 8.30 Just Shoot Me 9.00 Will & Grace 9.30 The West Wing 10.30 Digital Tour 11.00 Crossing Over with John	6.00 Captured 6.30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7.30 Euromaxx 8.00 New Yankee Workshop 8.30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8.00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8.30 It Might Be You 9.00 OK Fine! Whatever 11.00 Insider 11.30 The Correspondents	6.00 Concert at the Park 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Family Rosary Crusade	6.00 F 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7.30 Koof on Kam 8.30 That 70s Show 9.00 On Air 9.30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Mad TV	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8.00 Te Amo 8.30 Endless Love II 9.00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9.30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11.00 Saksi 11.30 I-Witness	6.00 Invader Zim 6.30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8.00 Jag 9.00 The Agency 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Sex & the City 11.00 Aletler	7.00 NBA 9.30 In This Corner 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6.00 The Chronicle 7.00 Bully 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.30 Travel Time	6.00 Net 25 Report 6.30 World Report Filipino Edition 7.00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8.00 Convergence 8.30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 Pasugo	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8.00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8.30 It Might Be You 9.00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11.00 Insider 11.30 Pipol	6.00 Paco Park Presents 7.00 Family Rosary Crusade 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Wow Philippines 11.00 Auto Focus	6.00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Koof on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9.00 E.R. 10.00 The Big News 11:00 Bugs	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8.00 Te Amo 8.30 Endless Love II 9.00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9.30 All Together Now 11.00 Saksi 11.30 I-Witness	6.00 Invader Zim 6.30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Ed 8.00 Ally McBeal 9.00 Specials 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Sports in Focus 11.00 Global Window	7.00 2003 Worldpool Master 9.00 Entrepinoy 10.00 Travel 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11.00 Up Close and Personal 11.30 Action Express	6.00 The Chronicle 7.00 Batman Animated 7.30 Batman Beyond 8.00 Smallville 9.00 Fast Lane 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Twilight Zone	6.00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8.00 Screen Savers Edit A 8:30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 Pasugo	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8.00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8.30 It Might Be You 9.00 Whattamen 10.00 Klasmeyts 11.00 Insider 11:30 Special Assignment	6.00 Asian Boxing Championship 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 MMDA on The Road	6.00 Pygmalio 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Koof on Kam 8.30 Friends 9.00 Single 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Video Hit Parade 11.00 Normal Ohio	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Extra Challenge 7.30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Te Amo 8:30 Endless Love II 9.00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9.30 Nuts Entertainment 11.00 Saksi 11.30 Jessica Soho Reports	6.00 Invader Zim 6.30 Entertainment Tonight 7.00 Malcolm in the Middle 7.30 Still Standing 8.00 8 Simple Rules 8.30 Scrubs 9.00 Everwood 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Girls Behaving Badly 11.00 Road Trip	10.00 Breaking BYK 101 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11.00 Breaking Barriers	6.00 The Chronicle 7.00 Batman Animated 7.30 Batman Beyond 8.00 CSI 9.00 Alias 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 The Cory Quirino Show	6.00 Net 25 Report 6.30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7.30 Euromaxx 8.00 Fresh Gear 8.30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 The Message	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8.00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8.30 It Might Be You 9.00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11.00 Insider 11:30 Dong Puno Live	5.00 Asian Boxing Championship 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 The Working President 11.00 Unlimited Diving	6.00 Dragon League 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7.30 Koof on Kam 8.30 Guinness World Records 9.30 Working 10.00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Te Amo 8.30 Endless Love II 9.00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Magpakailanman 11.00 Saksi 11.30 Debate	6.00 Invader Zim 6.30 Entertainment Tonight 7.00 Baby Bob 7.30 Sabrina 8.00 Felicity 9.00 Crossing Jordan 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Hidden Hills 11.00 Kasangga Mo'ng Langit	6.00 Game Channel 7.00 NBA 9.30 CelebrityDatCom 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11.00 Opinyon at Desisyon	6.00 The Chronicle 7.00 Mr Bean 7:30 Ang Boyfriend Ko 8.00 Barkada Nights 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Twilight Zone	6.00 Net 25 Report 6.30 World Report Filipino Edition 7.00 Openline 7.30 Euromaxx 8.00 Screen Savers Edit B 8:30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 Pasugo	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8.00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8.30 It Might Be You 9.00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Insider 11:30 Private I	6.00 Value Vision 7.00 Asian Boxing Championship 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 The Working President 11.00 Family Rosary Crusade	6.00 Fancy Lata 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Koof on Kam 8.00 The Big Night 10.00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8.00 Te Amo 8.30 Endless Love II 9.00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	6.00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 7.30 Dharma & Greg 8.00 Enterprise 9.00 Dead Zone 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 TV Greats on Friday	9.00 Global Family Series 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11.00 GMA The Working President	6.00 The Chronicle 7.00 X-Men Evolution 7:30 Justice League 8.00 Mutant X 9.00 The Bachelorette 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Twilight Zone	6.00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8.00 Auto Motor and Sports 8.30 DWTV Journal 9.00 Ang Tamang Daan 10.00 The Message	6.00 RJ Music Videos 9.00 Music Videos 10.00 Music Videos 11.00 Music Videos

FUENTES, left, with his wife Joni and Mark and Angie Martin, producers of his recent show in Chicago.

Toti battles the Big C with music and prayers

By Bibsy M. Carballo

LATE last year, when musician Toti Fuentes performed his farewell concert at Merk's Bar, prior to seeking medical treatment in the US for a rare kind of liver and intestinal cancer called leiomyosarcoma, we in the audience saw the previously robust Toti a virtual shell of what he was, and obviously in pain.

Cause

It was even more painful for us who knew and loved him. And yet, he did what he loved most, for a cause he believed in—the poor people of Leveriza, Pasay, through the parish church there.

The following day, he left for his treatment. A month after, a miracle occurred, and he was able to hold a solo New Year's Eve concert at the Paulwaukee Hotel Ballroom in Chicago!

Toti is thankful for a newly discovered medicine for his rare disease, a pill which he takes twice a day. The drug has had such a positive effect on him that his cancer tumors have started to shrink.

"My doctors were amazed at how fast the tumors shrank. The pill is still in its experimental stages so, to them, my case is a tremendous success story," Toti shares.

Surgery

Leiomyosarcoma occurs in four out of every one million cancer patients. It cannot be cured through chemotherapy. In the past, surgery was the only remedy. However, if the cancer comes back, there can be no cure. That is why American scientists worked on a pill to cure this rare cancer. In 2001, the US government approved the medication.

However, out of four patients, only two have had a positive response to the medication. Happily, Toti Fuentes belongs to the fortunate two. This makes him one of the first pioneer patients.

In 1972, Toti began to feel severe stomach pains which he ignored until 1998, when he was hospitalized for bleeding ulcers. He was confined and doctors infused bags of blood into his system.

This was the scenario for four consecutive years until he sought a second opinion. A doctor recommended that he undergo a CT scan, and it was discovered that he had the rare cancer. In October 2002, Toti was operated on and about a kilo of tumor was taken out from his body.

Last year, the tumor recurred and he was advised to seek medical help in the United States.

While modern medical technology is to be lauded for its advances, there is no discounting the power of prayer, especially in the case of Toti. Because he is not one to advertise it, others may not be aware of the fact that Toti is an ex-seminarian who has kept in touch not only with his faith, but also with his colleagues in the seminary through the years.

Toti was a student of philosophy and a regular seminarian studying to be a priest at UST in the '70s. One of his classmates was Fr. Michael Semana, who is now the chairman of The World of Hope Records, which has produced 25 albums of mostly gospel music in the past 16 years. Record sales go toward funding scholarships, feeding centers, and medical missions. The company has centers in India, Mexico Baguio, Samar and Laoag. And Toti has donated his services in the production of these records.

Farewell concert

Seeking a beneficiary for his farewell concert, Toti drove around Leveriza, knowing it to be one of the most depressed areas in Manila. Finding the Lady of Assumption Church, he asked to meet parish priest Fr. Nicardo Blanquiso—who didn't know Toti from Adam and was skeptical about his intentions.

Initially, Toti was reluctant to do the New Year show in Chicago: "I was afraid I might not make it through. But my wife Joni encouraged me, so I did it. She thought that it would be good for me as part of my healing process. And she was darn right, I felt really good after I performed."

Toti's life revolves around his music. Many times in the past, when he was suffering from severe stomach pains, he appeared extremely gaunt and exhausted. But once he sat in front of his keyboard, by some miracle he would start to glow, as if energy had suddenly been infused into his body.

Huge success

The New Year show, at $120 per person and attended by 150 well-heeled people, mostly Americans, was a huge success. At the end of the show, Toti was given a standing ovation.

Toti opened the show with "If Ever You're In My Arms Again," followed by "St. Elmo's Fire" and "Velocity of Love." Then, he played his original song, "Intramuros," which was a surprise hit with the American audience. Capping his performance, he played his seven-minute movie theme medley.

His medical treatment in the States also became a most welcome homecoming for Toti's entire family, with Grandma and Grandpa having so much fun with the kids Xara, Damien, and Xavier. Toti's wife Joni, was born and raised in the Chicago area, but had been away for a long time. "Once, she lived a quiet, suburban lifestyle. Then, in 1979, a Filipino musician came along and took her away," Toti chuckles.

Toti is still not out of the woods, medically speaking, but it's a good indication that he feels well enough to play, and doing what he loves most is very good for his morale. He's up and about, planning shows in the United States, where he will have to be under medication for some more months. Today, he is scheduled to play for a show with Geneva Cruz, again in Chicago.

Daphne house model
144 sqm. usable floor area
FOR AS LOW AS
P25,000/mo.

High end living made affordable at
Highlands Pointe
TAYTAY, RIZAL
A community of
FILINVEST
EAST COUNTY
www.filinvest-land.com
LTS No.: 96012771

Lots only also available for as low as P6,300.00 per month!
CALL NOW: 723-6515 / 727-7615
LIMITED OFFER: P50,000 discount for the first 10 buyers
How to get there: Take Ortigas Avenue (Antipolo bound). Upon reaching Tikling (3-way fork), take Cabrera road (the middle road in the fork) and follow the road signs leading to Highlands Pointe.
Brokers/ Sales Managers/ Consultants are welcome to apply. [illegible] bank financing at [illegible] indicative [illegible] interest rate

OPEN HOUSE TODAY 9 am to 5 pm
Also visit our Megamall exhibit from January 29 to February 11

GETTING MARRIED?

The country's top wedding photographers and various suppliers come together once again...

Members of the Wedding & Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (WPPP), together with Edd Sy of Edd Sy Collection and Ms. Jeannette Nocon of Wedding Professionals
Left to Right: Edd Sy (Designer), Dino Lara, Lee Llamas, Jorge Manquis, Pilar Tuason, Benny Bondoc, Lito Perez, Jeannette Nocon (Organizer of A Bridal Affair), Raymund Marcelo, Marco Abesamis, Florence Topico-Mayuga, Bobby Eleazar, Emil Buencamino

A Bridal Affair
by WP Wedding Professionals
February 7-8, 2004
NBC Tent
Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila
10am to 8pm
FREE ADMISSION

Register now via SMS!
Send WP reg <your name> <wedding date>
Ex. WP reg Jane de la Cruz March 20, 2004
to 2311 Globe & Touch Mobile / 350 Smart & Talk n Text
(PHP2.50 for each message sent)

Brought to you by:
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LIFESTYLE
WPPP
Edd Sy collection
Hizon's
Joey 92.3 Rhythms
105.1 Crossover
103.5
Magic 89.9
www.bridalaffair.net

Get FREE movie tickets
with your Citibank Credit Card
January 30 to February 15, 2004

See flyers, call CitiPhone at 995-9999
or log on to www.citibank.com.ph for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-044, Series of 2004

AYALA CENTER
A member of citigroup
citibank

before

makeover
after

Just buy a Globe Prepaid X-treme Memory SIM for only **₱200** and make your first reload!

also available
Individual Blue Cologne For Him

Promo period: Feb. 1 to March 31, 2004

1. Buy a Globe Prepaid X-treme Memory SIM for only ₱200 at any Globe Telecom Business Center or dealer nationwide. Promo not open to SIM Switch and Hi-Memory SIM.
2. Reload for as low as ₱50 within the promo period (Share-a-load not qualified*). You will receive a promo text from 2977 within 2 days.
3. Show the text and surrender your SIM casing at any Avon outlet or to your Avon Lady to claim your Globe AVON Kikay Kit with one (1) Avon Color Ultra Color Rich Renewable mini lipstick or one (1) 10mL bottle of Individual Blue Pocket Edition Cologne For Him. The Avon representative will delete the text upon redemption. For help in claiming, you can also call the Avon Hotline at 1-800-888-2866.
4. Each person can only claim a maximum of five (5) items. Redeem from Feb. 1 to May 29, 2004 only.
5. Employees of Globe Telecom, Avon, Harrison Communications, Inc., and Globe dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.

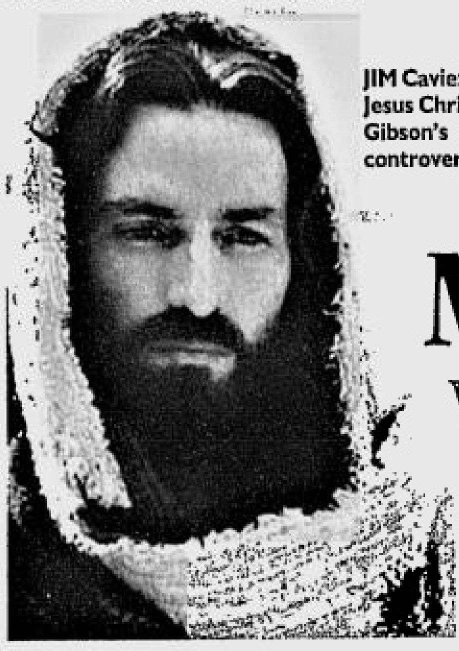
* Approved by DTI-NCR / Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0061, Series of 2004.

GLOBE AVON kikaykit

FREE!
AVON color
LIPSTICK

Globe HANDYPHONE
Prepaid
64k
X-treme Memory

making great things possible for her **Globe** HANDYPHONE



JIM Caviezel plays Jesus Christ in Gibson's controversial movie.

Mel Gibson wants viewers to have a visceral reaction to 'The Passion of the Christ'

By Nestor U. Torre

ACE film director, actor and producer Mel Gibson has become a controversial figure these days, with the imminent showing (on Feb. 25) of his new film, "The Passion of the Christ," on the crucifixion of Jesus. Last week, we caught Gibson being interviewed by Raymond Arroyo on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), and finally understood what the fire and thunder was all about.

Unusual film

Even better, Gibson opened his heart and mind to viewers, so we found out why he had made such an unusual film, which has become so controversial that it has made him suffer a Passion of his own.

Gibson is a devout Roman Catholic, but this is the first time that he has put his filmmaking gift to the service of his faith. He shared that he has been planning to make "The Passion" for the past 13 years.

After he had sufficiently researched the project and had come up with the script, he approached some producers, but they declined to finance the production, because he wanted its dialogue to be in the languages spoken during Jesus' time (Latin and Aramaic).

Dead languages

These are regarded as "dead" languages today, so producers felt that few people would tolerate their being spoken onscreen.

As a result, Gibson had to put not only his talent, but also his money on the line. He financed "The Passion" and spent five long months shooting it in Italy.

Gibson says that his source material was mainly the Gospels. Why did he choose to focus on the last 12 hours of Jesus' life? "Because they are the most important—they highlight the sacrificial aspect of Christ's' mission on earth."

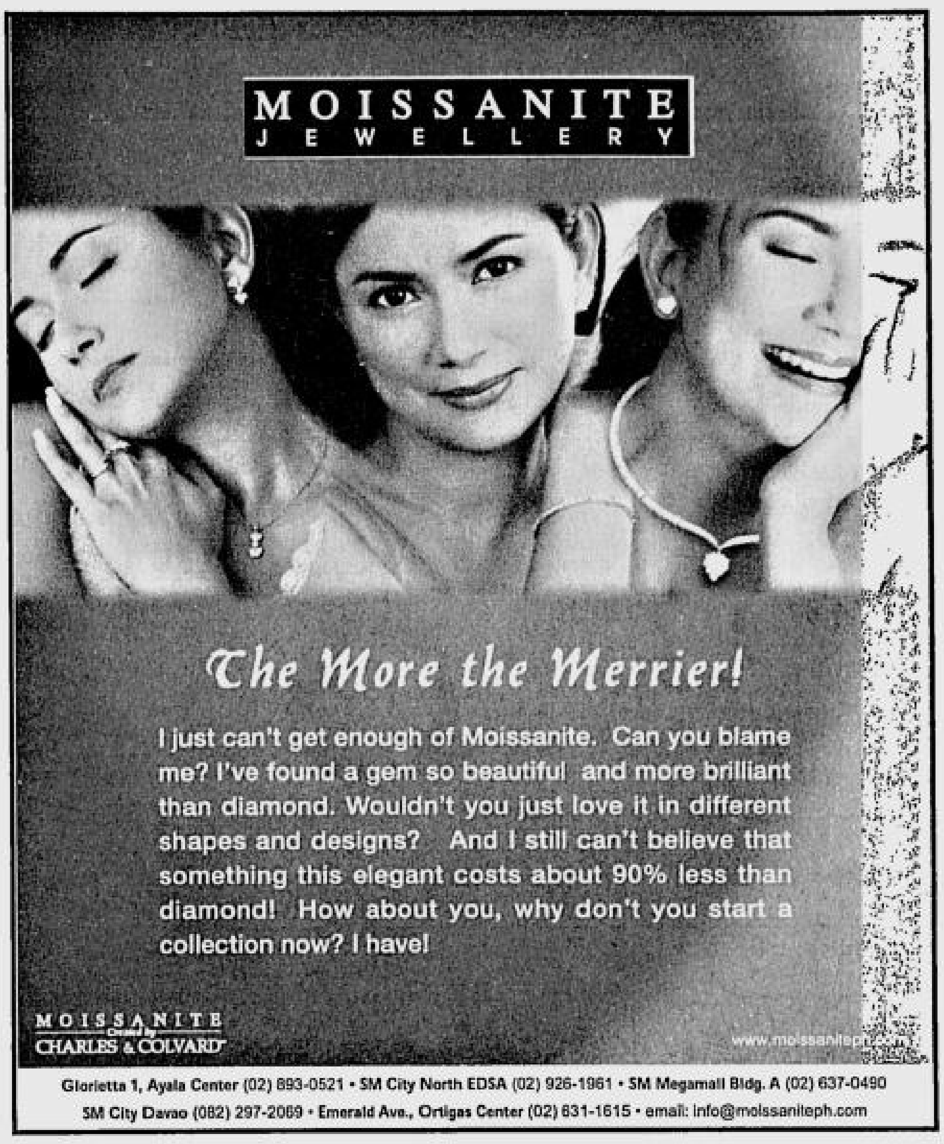
Central theme

He had long regarded the life of Jesus as the central theme of Christianity, so he wanted to find out more about it. During the 13 long years of the project's gestation, his work on the movie became "my personal meditation. I found it a healing process for me. We who live in the complex world today are pretty wounded by everything, and life has become a kind of scarring. So, I really needed the healing that this project effected in me."

Why did he decide to have his characters speak in "dead" languages? "Because

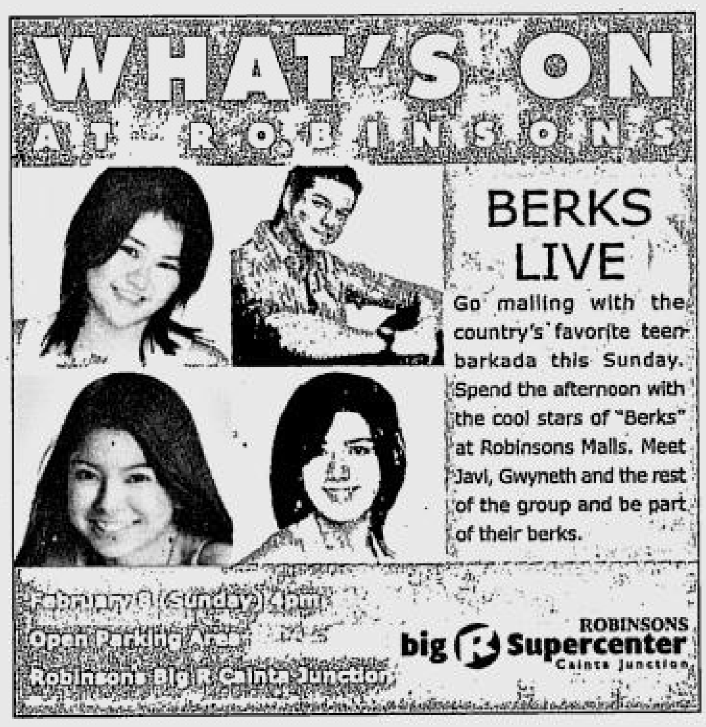
MEL GIBSON/ E3

SUCCESS GUARANTEED
after our Famous Training!
Enrol in a Package, P2,300 per course only
• Speech Dynamics: Master Oral Skills
• Practical Grammar & Conversations : Fluency and Mastery of the English Language
• Public Speaking • Personality in Action
• Verbal Advantage: Complete Package
• Survival English: or Basic English
Scheds: TTH 7-8:30PM; Sat 2-5PM; SUN 9-1PM
WCT Kiddie Academy
(From 3 to 15 years old)
(Speech, Theater Arts, Grammar, English Fluency, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg. & Personality Dev.) Saturdays 9-12 NN or 1-4 PM
• TOEFL • TSE • IELTS
Corporate Training & Private Tutoring are available
WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
LEGARDA, SAMPALOC
2600 Rizal Hall Arellano University
736-7656
736-7657
736-7644
SINCE 1967
Providence Bldg.
55 Annapolis, Greenhills
c/o Sampaloc
www.wctacademe.com


MOISSANITE JEWELLERY
The More the Merrier!
MOISSANITE Created by CHARLES & COLVARD
www.moissaniteph.com

I just can't get enough of Moissanite. Can you blame me? I've found a gem so beautiful and more brilliant than diamond. Wouldn't you just love it in different shapes and designs? And I still can't believe that something this elegant costs about 90% less than diamond! How about you, why don't you start a collection now? I have!

Glorietta 1, Ayala Center (02) 893-0521 • SM City North EDSA (02) 926-1961 • SM Megamall Bldg. A (02) 637-0490
SM City Davao (082) 297-2069 • Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center (02) 631-1615 • email: info@moissaniteph.com


WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
February 8 (Sunday) 4pm
Open Parking Area
Robinsons Big R Cainta Junction
ROBINSONS big R Supercenter Cainta Junction

BERKS LIVE

Go malling with the country's favorite teen barkada this Sunday. Spend the afternoon with the cool stars of "Berks" at Robinsons Malls. Meet Javi, Gwyneth and the rest of the group and be part of their berks.

Get lucky in the Year of the Monkey!
As we launch
BROOKESIDE LANE
Gen. Trias, Cavite
on February 15, 2004
from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Join us in an all-day celebration, as we launch Cavite's premium commercial lots at BROOKESIDE LANE.
Starting the day's events is a colorful motorcade.
Afterwards, indulge in some serious shopping at our bazaar, where you can get great finds for you and your family.

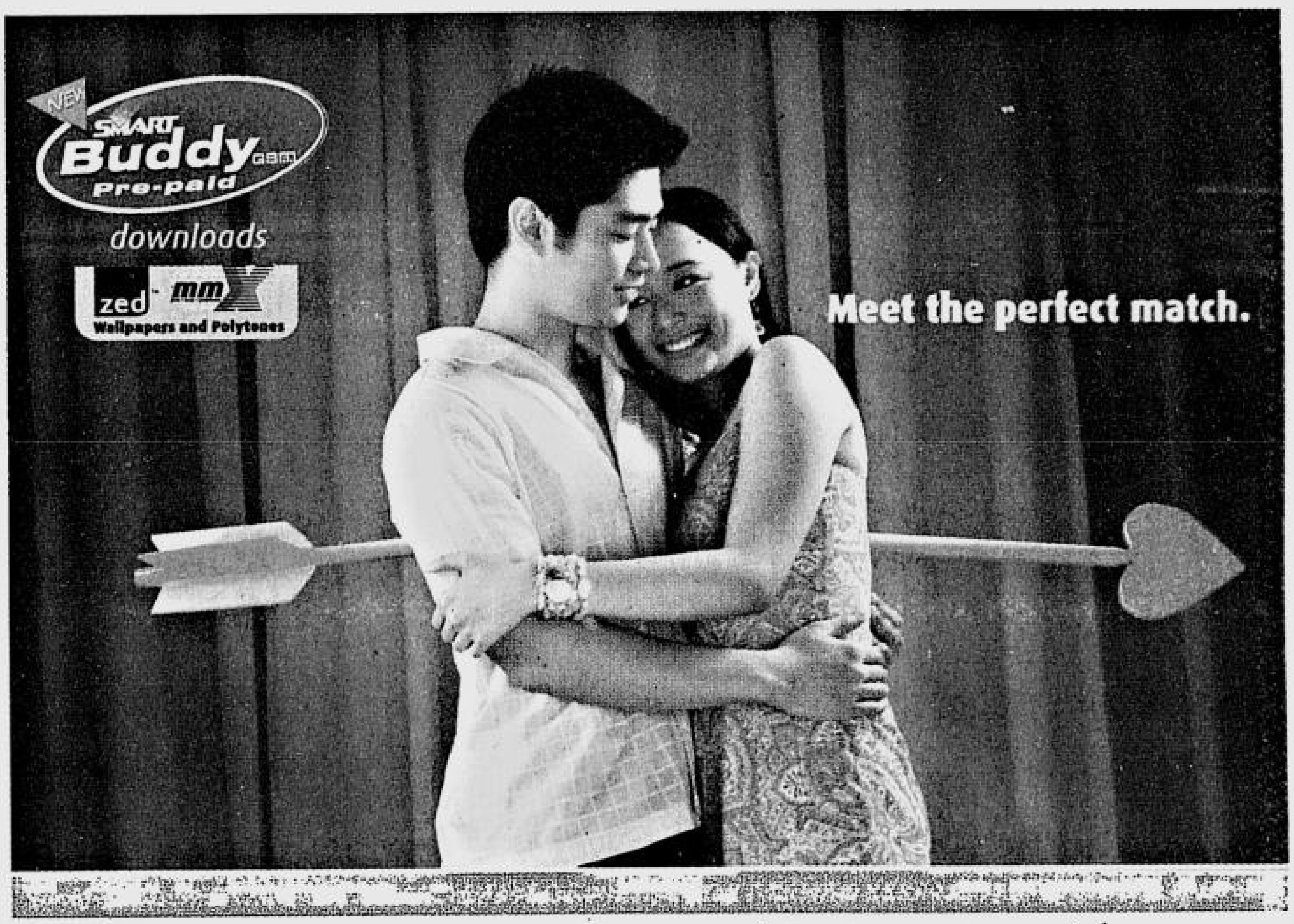
All buyers can look forward to special gifts and get great discounts. So come on over and join in the fun of money-making!

See you there!

For inquiries, call:
(02) 727-6865 to 66 • (02) 723-1670
(046) 402-0286 to 87

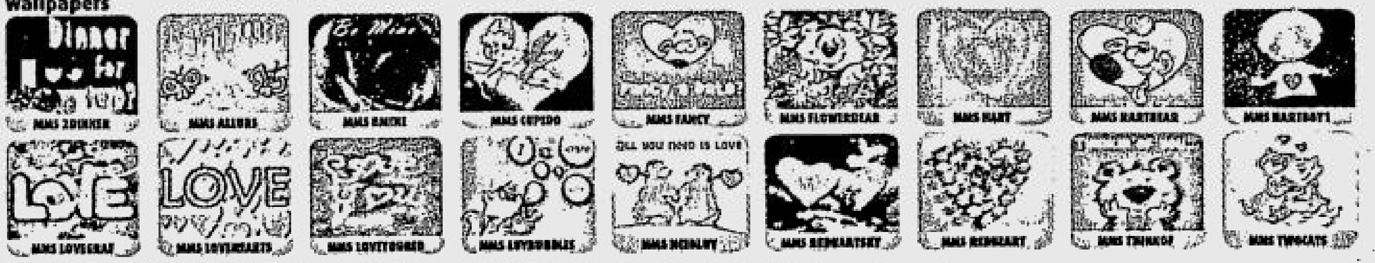
HOW TO GET THERE:
From Coastal, take Aguinaldo Hi-way, turn right at Governor's Drive, immediately after Monterey Farm, turn right to reach Crystal Aire gate.

BRING THIS AD AND GET A SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

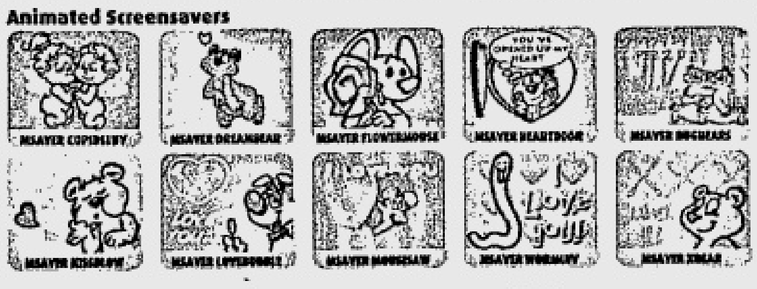

NEW
SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
downloads
zed mmX
Wallpapers and Polytones
Meet the perfect match.

Pair up with the love graphic or love tone that best matches you.

Wallpapers


MMS 2DINNER
MMS ALLURE
MMS BMINE
MMS CUPIDO
MMS FANCY
MMS FLOWERBEAR
MMS HART
MMS HARTBEAR
MMS HARTBOT1
MMS LOVEGRAF
LOVE
MMS LOVEHEARTS
MMS LUVBUBBLES
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
MMS REDHEART

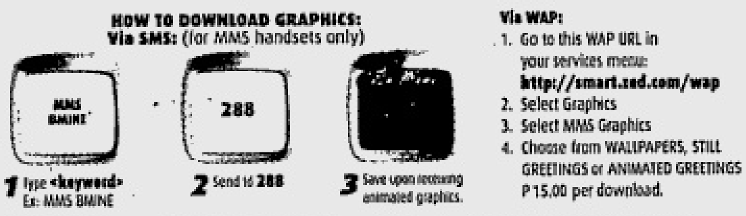
Animated Screensavers


MSAVER CUPIDLUV
MSAVER DREAMBEAR
MSAVER FLOWERMOUSE
YOU'VE OPENED UP MY HEART
MSAVER HEARTDOOR
MSAVER HUGBEARS
MSAVER LOVEBUBBLE
I Love You
MSAVER WORMLUV

Polytones

Bliss	*Alice Peacock & John Mayer*	**MTONE BLISS**
Breaking Us In Two	*Mandy Moore*	**MTONE BREAKUS**
How Come Is You	*Vic Zhou*	**MTONE HOWCOME**
Make A Wish	*Vic Zhou*	**MTONE MAKEWISH**
Moonshadow	*Mandy Moore*	**MTONE MSHADOW**
Only I	*Jerry Yen*	**MTONE ONLYI**
My Immortal	*Evanessence*	**MTONE IMMORTAL**
I Want You	*Thalia Feat Fat Joe*	**MTONE IWANTU**
Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**MTONE BROKEN**
I'll Do Anything	*Simple Plan*	**MTONE DOANY**
I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**MTONE IBE**
So Into You	*Fabolous And Ashanti*	**MTONE INTOU**
Tag-ulan	*After Image*	**MTONE TAGULAN**
Back At One	*Brian McKnight*	**MTONE BACKAT1**
Have You Ever	*S Club 7*	**MTONE HAVEYOU**
Kiss Me	*Six Pence None The Richer*	**MTONE KISSME**
True Colors	*Cyndi Lauper*	**MTONE TRUECOLORS**
Underneath It All	*No Doubt*	**MTONE UNDERNEATH**
Someone's Always Saying Goodbye	*Allona*	**MTONE ALWAYSGB**
Be My Lady	*Martin Nievera*	**MTONE BMYLADY**
Don't Know What To Say	*Ric Segreto*	**MTONE WAT2SAY**

HOW TO DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS:
Via SMS: (for MMS handsets only)

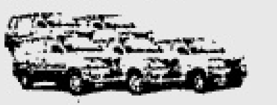

MMS BMINE
288

1 Type **<keyword>** Ex: MMS BMINE
2 Send to **288**
3 Save upon receiving animated graphics.

Via WAP:
1. Go to this WAP URL in your services menu: **http://smart.zed.com/wap**
2. Select Graphics
3. Select MMS Graphics
4. Choose from WALLPAPERS, STILL GREETINGS or ANIMATED GREETINGS P15.00 per download.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD POLYPHONIC TONES:
Via SMS:
1. Key in **MTONE <tone name>**
   Ex: MTONE WAT2SAY
2. Send to **288**
3. Save upon receiving polyphonic tone.

Via WAP:
1. Go to this WAP URL in your services menu: **http://smart.zed.com/wap**
2. Select ringtones
3. Select polytones
4. Choose your phone model P15.00 per download.



Get a chance to win a fleet of 5 Mitsubishi Adventures! Register for free. Text DREAM to 232!

YULE B COOL
Over P3.5 million in cool, cool prizes!

Send YULE to 288 and download now!

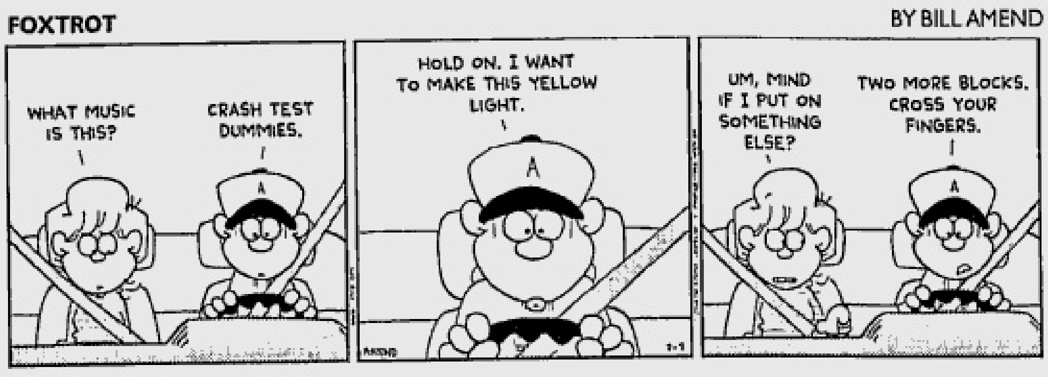
Plus thousands more downloads and services at **www.smart.zed.com** Send **MMX ON** <phone model> to **288** for daily updates on new and top java games, animated screen savers, wall papers and polytones. Ex: MMX ON N7650 This service is also available to other SMART GSM subscribers.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SMART Simply Amazing!

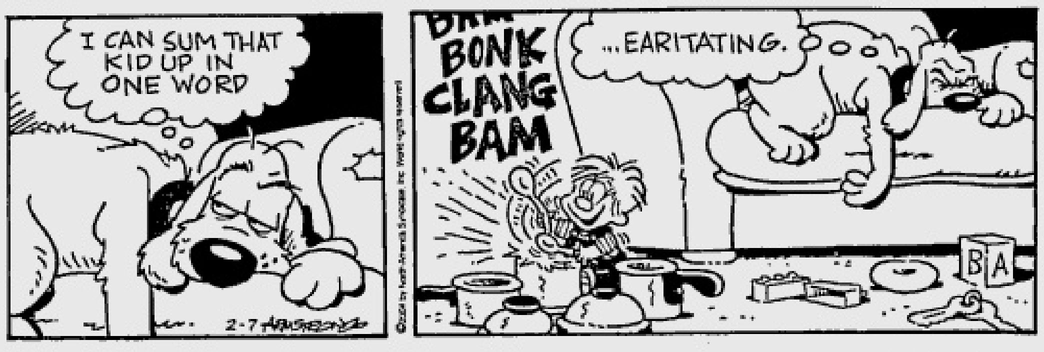
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT MUSIC IS THIS?
CRASH TEST DUMMIES.
HOLD ON. I WANT TO MAKE THIS YELLOW LIGHT.
UM, MIND IF I PUT ON SOMETHING ELSE?
TWO MORE BLOCKS. CROSS YOUR FINGERS.
A
AMEND

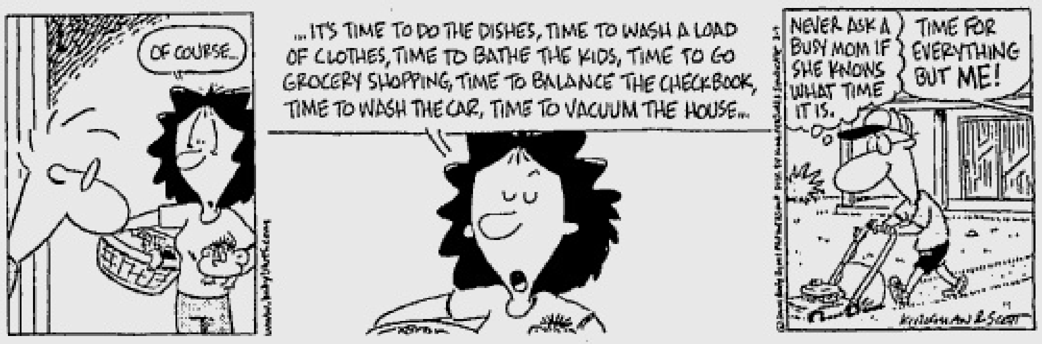
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN SUM THAT KID UP IN ONE WORD
BONK
CLANG
BAM
...EARITATING.
B A
2-7 ARMSTRONG

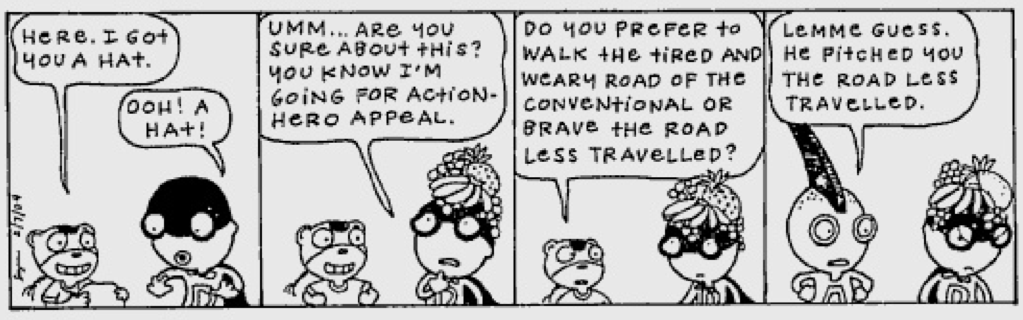
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OF COURSE...
...IT'S TIME TO DO THE DISHES, TIME TO WASH A LOAD OF CLOTHES, TIME TO BATHE THE KIDS, TIME TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING, TIME TO BALANCE THE CHECKBOOK, TIME TO WASH THE CAR, TIME TO VACUUM THE HOUSE...
NEVER ASK A BUSY MOM IF SHE KNOWS WHAT TIME IT IS.
TIME FOR EVERYTHING BUT ME!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here. I Got you A HAt.
OOH! A HAt!
UMM... ARe you SURe ABOUt tHiS? you KNOW I'M GOiNG FOR ACtiON-HeRO APPeAL.
DO you PReFeR to WALK tHe tiReD AND WeARy ROAD OF THe CONVeNtiONAL OR BRAVe tHe ROAD LeSS TRAVeLLeD?
LeMMe GUeSS. He PitCHeD you THe ROAD LeSS TRAVeLLeD.
2/7/04

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are warm, sincere and, above all, spontaneous. People love your earthy, folksy humor. You also have strong ideals and hopes for a better society. Because of this, you are critical of the inequities you see around you. You need a lot of freedom. The year ahead favors marriage and relationships. Expect more socializing!

Birthdate of: Chris Rock, comic/actor; Garth Brooks, singer; Laura Ingalls Wilder, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's a good day to think about your goals and expectations for the future. Consider whether these goals are yours or somebody else's that you've adopted for yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good time to make plans for your professional future. Think about whether or not things are really working out for you as you want them to.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The next few weeks are an excellent time to travel. Your curiosity about the world around you is aroused. Plus, you will probably have an opportunity to go somewhere.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Discussions and negotiations about finances and property are likely now. This will focus on matters that are held jointly between you and someone else.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good time to verify important issues with a partner or close friend. Don't be afraid to discuss difficulties that you are worried about. Now is the time to come clean.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent time for mental work and intellectual study. Whatever you do at your job will be done quite carefully. You're a stickler for details right now. Nothing misses your attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You don't have to justify every action you take. Sometimes doing something just because it's fun is enough of a reason. Don't try to live up to other people's expectations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Communication with a parent is more significant right now. For one thing, you're able to voice your innermost thoughts easily and candidly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The tempo of events in your life starts to quicken now. Don't try to resist this or control it. Just go with the flow and keep a smile on your face.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're more concerned with business and commercial affairs than usual now. You'll likely succeed because you're willing to put a lot of effort and planning into whatever you do.

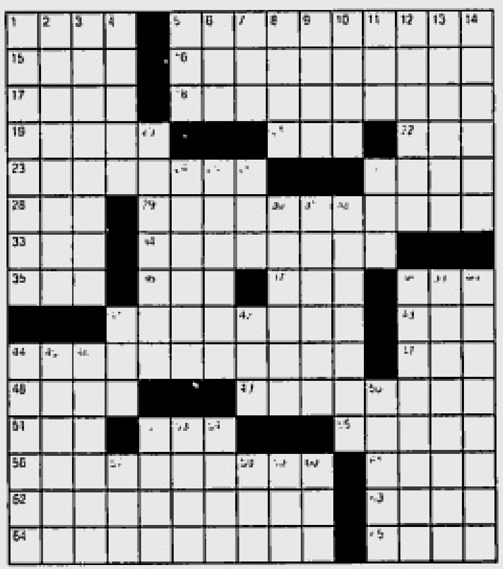
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a strong urge to talk to others and get your point of view across. Similarly, you want to travel more. You just want to communicate with the world!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Daydreaming and wool-gathering seem to be the order of the day. Don't be hard on yourself if you can't concentrate. Your mind is elsewhere.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Old geezer
5 Made worse
15 Comic Johnson
16 "West Side Story" Oscar winner
17 Makes lace
18 Dalton unit
19 Swiped
21 Go out with
22 Greek letters
23 WWII battle site
27 Ford's running mate
28 Jackie's "O"
29 Founds
33 "The Delta of Venus" writer
34 Stirred from sleep
35 Great Lakes canals
36 "Lord __"
37 Org. of Lions and Bears
38 Machinery part
41 Shaped like a dunce's cap
43 Singer Sumac
44 Treasuries
47 Operate
48 Ship's company
49 Separating oxen
51 Paul Newman movie
52 Hot spring
55 Old-time actress Nita
56 Deprive of virility
61 In addition
62 Pawed
63 Well in France
64 Amuses
65 Complexion woe

DOWN
1 Tomographic images
2 Sacred story set to music
3 Composer Respighi
4 Croatian-born physicist and inventor
5 Altar of stars
6 Beat it!
7 Classic Pontiac letters
8 NFL squad
9 Alain's girlfriend
10 Sotto __ (in an undertone)
11 Extension
12 Darjeeling server
13 Store, as grain
14 London flophouses
20 San Diego suburb
24 Scattering, as seeds
25 Captivate
26 Pop the question
27 Lead balloon
30 Hamstring, for example
31 Disgrace
32 Acts the squealer
38 Of the Russian alphabet
39 First to the South Pole
40 Flugelhorn-player Chuck
41 Borden's Elsie
42 Debt letters
44 Secret plan
45 Roosevelt's successor
46 Biting pest
50 Mecca shrine
52 Duel reminder
53 Kick a football
54 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
57 That girl
58 Boxing great
59 X
60 H. Ross Perot company



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
2/7/04

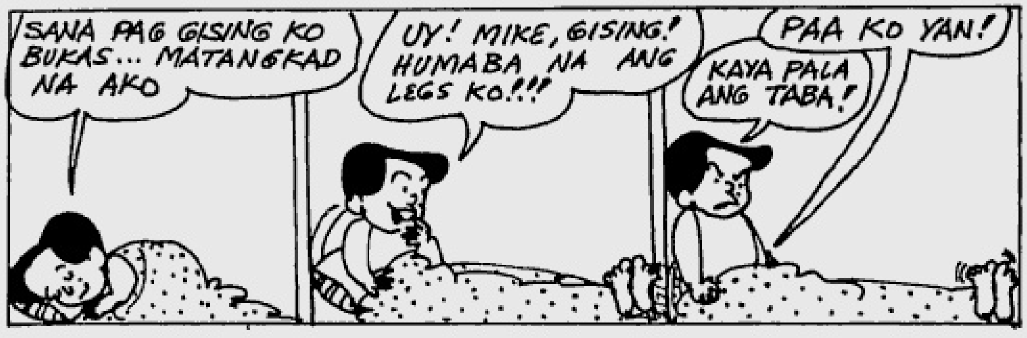
Friday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	Z	E	■	S	H	A	V	E	■	A	G	R	A
E	D	E	N	■	C	U	R	E	S	■	D	R	A	M
G	O	L	D	T	I	M	E	R	S	■	D	A	N	E
A	R	D	O	R	■	S	A	D	E	■	S	I	G	N
N	E	A	R	E	D	■	S	I	N	F	U	L	■	■
■	■	■	S	K	I	P	■	■	■	A	P	R	E	S
E	D	G	E	■	T	E	A	P	O	T	■	O	L	E
M	I	A	■	A	C	T	I	O	N	S	■	A	S	A
U	R	L	■	S	H	E	L	L	S	■	A	D	E	N
S	E	A	M	S	■	■	■	K	E	P	T	■	■	■
■	■	C	A	N	N	E	D	■	T	A	L	K	E	D
C	H	A	R	■	I	R	O	N	■	L	E	A	V	E
P	A	R	T	■	G	R	O	O	M	M	A	T	E	S
A	T	T	Y	■	H	O	N	D	A	■	S	I	N	K
S	E	E	R	■	T	R	E	E	D	■	T	E	S	S

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services Inc
All rights reserved
2/7/04

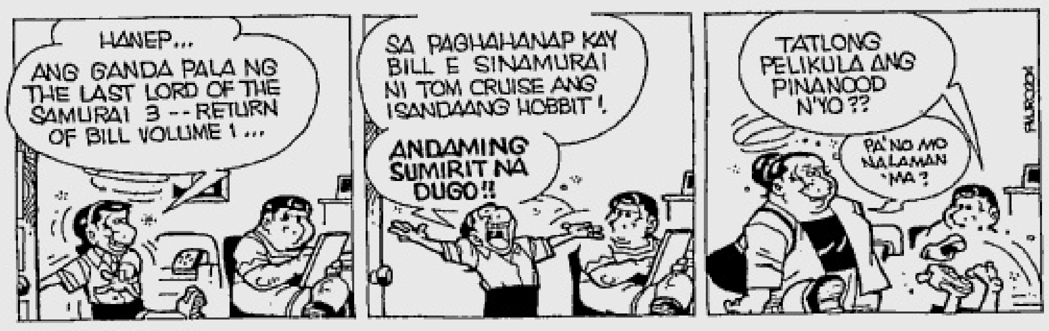
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SANA PAG GISING KO BUKAS... MATANGKAD NA AKO
UY! MIKE, GISING! HUMABA NA ANG LEGS KO!!!
PAA KO YAN!
KAYA PALA ANG TABA!

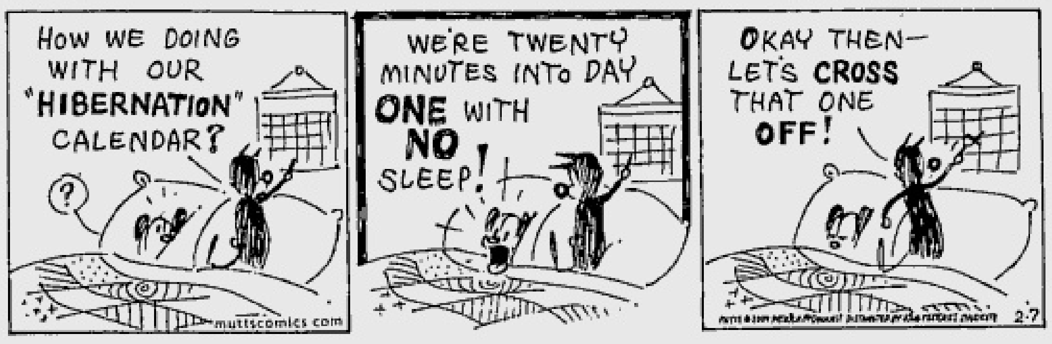
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HANEP... ANG GANDA PALA NG THE LAST LORD OF THE SAMURAI 3 -- RETURN OF BILL VOLUME 1 ...
SA PAGHAHANAP KAY BILL E SINAMURAI NI TOM CRUISE ANG ISANDAANG HOBBIT!
ANDAMING SUMIRIT NA DUGO!!
TATLONG PELIKULA ANG PINANOOD N'YO??
PA'NO MO NALAMAN 'MA?
PMJR2004

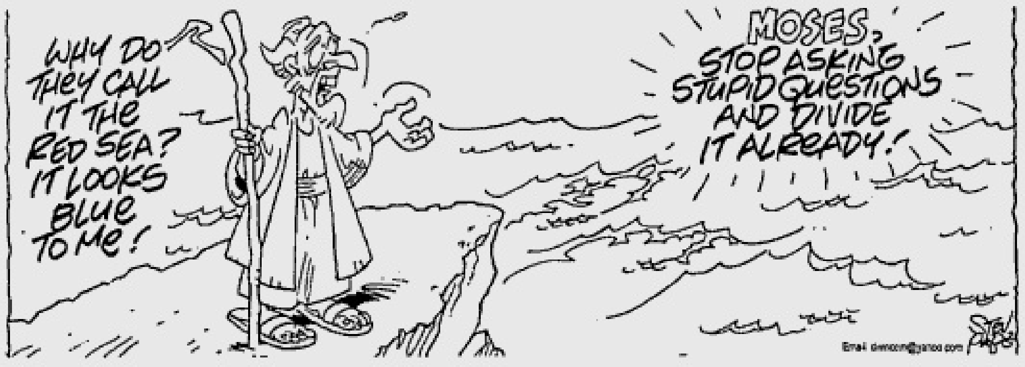
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW WE DOING WITH OUR "HIBERNATION" CALENDAR?
?
WE'RE TWENTY MINUTES INTO DAY ONE WITH NO SLEEP!
OKAY THEN— LET'S CROSS THAT ONE OFF!
muttscomics.com
2-7

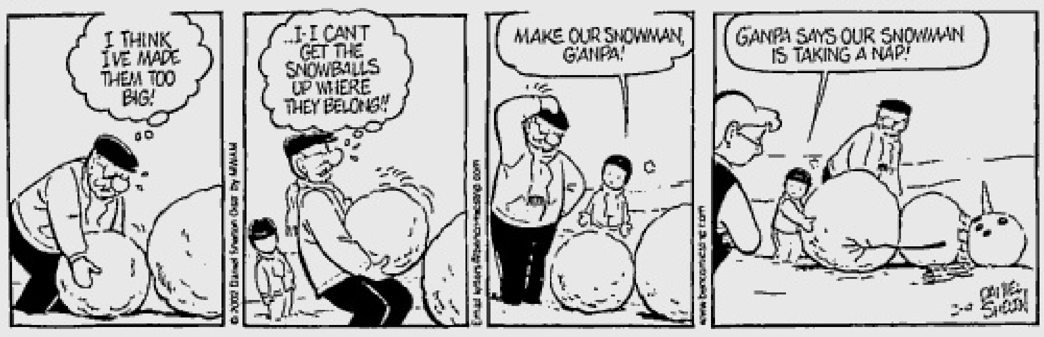
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHY DO THEY CALL IT THE RED SEA? IT LOOKS BLUE TO ME!
MOSES, STOP ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS AND DIVIDE IT ALREADY!

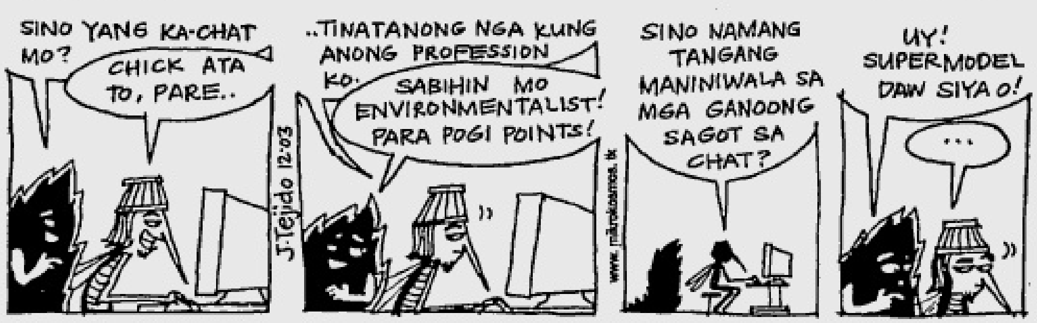
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I THINK I'VE MADE THEM TOO BIG!
...I-I CAN'T GET THE SNOWBALLS UP WHERE THEY BELONG!!
MAKE OUR SNOWMAN, GANPA!
GANPA SAYS OUR SNOWMAN IS TAKING A NAP!
DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

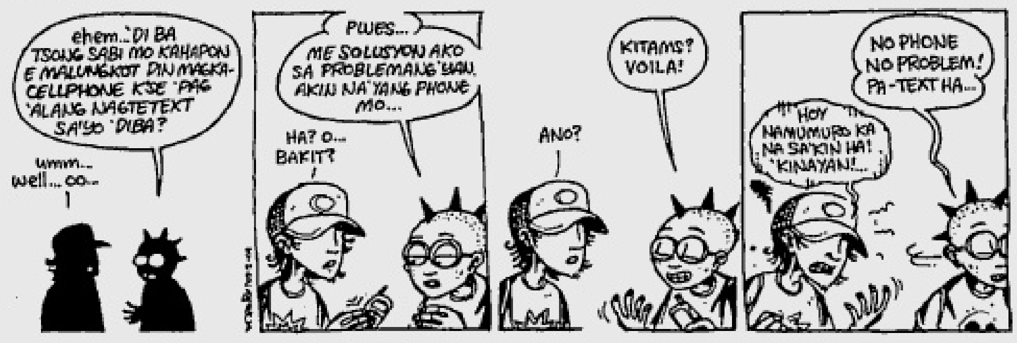
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SINO YANG KA-CHAT MO?
CHICK ATA TO, PARE..
..TINATANONG NGA KUNG ANONG PROFESSION KO.
SABIHIN MO ENVIRONMENTALIST! PARA POGI POINTS!
J.Tejido 12.03
SINO NAMANG TANGANG MANINIWALA SA MGA GANOONG SAGOT SA CHAT?
UY! SUPERMODEL DAW SIYA O!
...

Visit the 2nd Mikrokosmos ART EXHIBIT at Chocolate Kiss Cafe, UP Bahay ng Alumni, Feb.2 -28 !

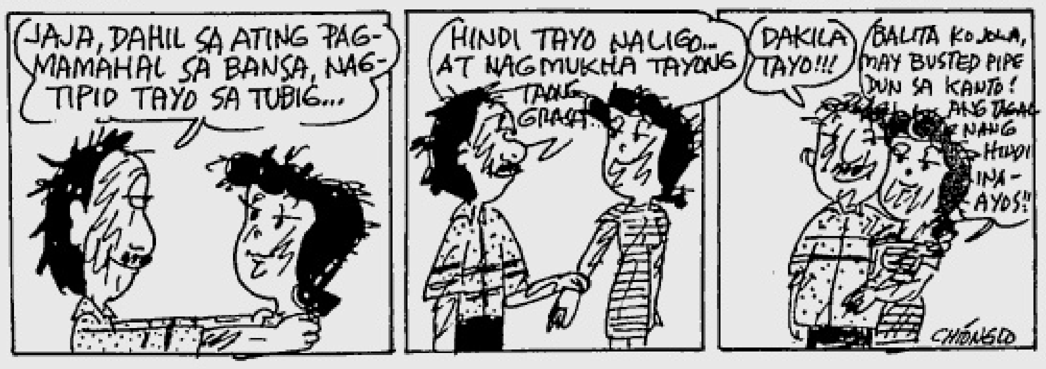
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ehem..'DI BA TSONG SABI MO KAHAPON E MALUNGKOT DIN MAGKA-CELLPHONE KSE 'PAG 'ALANG NAGTETEXT SA'YO 'DIBA?
umm... well... oo...
PWES... ME SOLUSYON AKO SA PROBLEMANG 'YAN. AKIN NA 'YANG PHONE MO...
HA? O... BAKIT?
ANO?
KITAMS? VOILA!
HOY NAMUMURO KA NA SA'KIN HA! 'KINAYAN!...
NO PHONE NO PROBLEM! PA-TEXT HA...

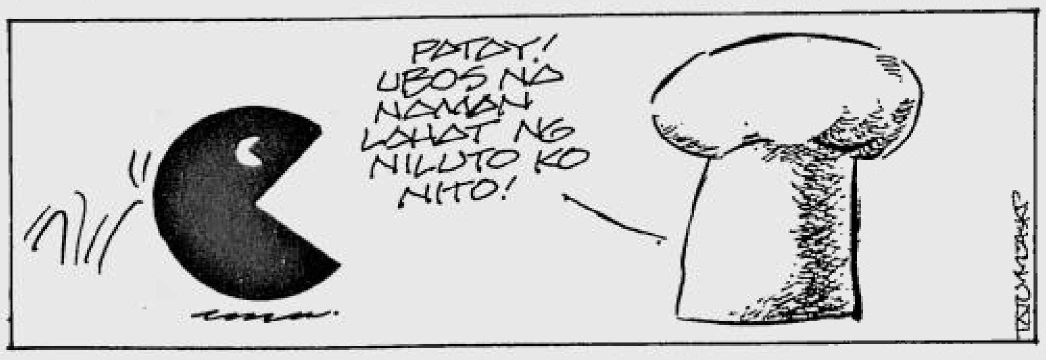
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, DAHIL SA ATING PAG-MAMAHAL SA BANSA, NAG-TIPID TAYO SA TUBIG...
HINDI TAYO NALIGO... AT NAGMUKHA TAYONG TAONG GRASA...
DAKILA TAYO!!!
BALITA KO JOLA, MAY BUSTED PIPE DUN SA KANTO! ANG TAGAL NANG HINDI INA-AYOS!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PATAY! UBOS NA NAMAN LAHAT NG NILUTO KO NITO!

Upcoming features to light up our screens

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

***FROM** Jojit Galapon of Makati:* **"I am a big fan of Orlando Bloom, Pixar Films and Halle Berry. What are their next movies?"**

The current film year promises to be an exciting romp for movie buffs everywhere with the scheduled release of promising features in the coming months. Upcoming projects topbill Bloom, Berry and a highly anticipated new Pixar movie, plus other titles worth waiting for:

$150 million

"Troy." Director Wolfgang Peterson shot his $150 million epic adventure for five months in Mexico, London and Malta. Other than an appropriately buffed Brad Pitt, who plays Achilles, the film also stars Orlando Bloom (as Paris), Eric Bana and Diane Kruger (as the famously beautiful Helen).

"Batman: Intimidation." We can't wait to see Christopher Nolan's ("Following," "Memento") reinvention of the Batman franchise starring Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne and Michael Caine as the butler Alfred, with Cillian Murphy ("28 Days Later") playing the requisite baddie.

CG adventure

"The Incredibles." Pixar's latest CG adventure plays on our continuing fascination with superhero characters. It is voiced by Craig T. Nelson (as Mr. Incredible) and Holly Hunter (as his wife Elastigirl).

"Collateral." Ever wondered how Tom Cruise would do as a *kontrabida*? Michael Mann answers that question by making the superstar play a grizzled contract killer out to get marked woman Jada Pinkett Smith.

PITT. Worked on Peterson's $150 million epic adventure, "Troy," for five months.

BERRY. Plays a meek designer endowed with feline powers in "Catwoman."

"Catwoman." After playing Storm in Marvel's "X-Men," Halle Berry tries her paws at DC's "Catwoman"—not the tragic Selina Kyle Michelle Pfeiffer sumptuously played in the Batman franchise, but as Patience Philips, a meek graphic arts designer who finds herself endowed with superkitty abilities.

"The Manchurian Candidate." Jonathan Demme reimagines John Frankenheimer's 1962 thriller with Denzel Washington playing Frank Sinatra's character and Meryl Streep in the role that won Angela Lansbury an Oscar nomination.

Impressive list

"Shark Tale." The other CG animation to watch out for—Dreamworks gathers an impressive list of names: Will Smith, Angelina Jolie, Renee Zellweger, Jack Black, with Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese as, what else, gangster sharks!

"The Passion of the Christ." Mel Gibson's highly controversial Crucifixion saga gets its final judgment after months of intense speculation and debate.

Dark charisma

"Ghost Rider." After being persistently linked to talks of a "darker," Tim Burton-type Clark Kent, Nicolas Cage finally finds a superhero fit for his dark charisma—this time as Marvel's superhero biker possessed by the demonic Spirit of Vengeance.

"The Aviator." Finally, Martin Scorsese's Howard Hughes bio takes off with Leonardo DiCaprio in the title role. He lights up the screen with Cate Blanchett playing Katharine Hepburn, Kate Benckinsale as Ava Gardner and Jude Law as Errol Flynn!

NINA. Soul siren.

Nina has a lot to smile about

By Noelani Torre

TRUE to her new album's title, "Smile" (Warner Music), Nina flashes her pearly whites in various interpretations of the word in every page of the CD's inlay.

Good reason

She has good reason to be joyful—last year was a good one for her (as well as for acoustic music in general), what with hits like "Loving You, "Foolish Heart" and "Jealous" staying on-air for weeks on end and making her a household name. She was also a winner in last year's Awit Awards, and was hailed as Best New Artist in the MTV Pilipinas Awards.

Now that she has a foot in the music industry's door, it appears that Nina, with this heavily-promoted second album, has plans on going all the way in.

Resemblance

Popularly known as the "soul siren" (must every new diva-esque singer have to have a "title"?), she is no whiskey-voiced Jaya (who got to the "soul diva" tag first), but she—or rather her singing style—bears a resemblance to that of the oft-imitated Mariah Carey.

Truth to tell, we've gotten tired of listening to sundry wannabe Mariahs (unfortunately, jeeploads of the variety can be found here, there and everywhere).

Charm of youth

Thankfully, despite the desultory resemblance, Nina is no out-and-out copy of the dyed diva. She has a lighter hand on the vocal gymnastics, for one, and she retains some of the charm of youth.

You've probably been hearing one or two of her album's tracks on the radio—particularly the opening number "Make You Mine" and "A Girl Can Dream."

"Make You Mine" is a relatively upbeat song, which makes it stand out from the generally languid pace of the rest of the tunes. It looks set on its way to becoming another hit and, with rap sequences mixed in with all that soulful crooning, it is awfully trendy—perhaps too much so.

Cover

If "A Girl Can Dream" sounds familiar, it's because it's a cover of Prove Yourself True's original, which was released two years ago. P.Y.T. is an American teen girl group, and this song about unrequited love is one of its hits. *(To be concluded)*

Mel . . .

From page E1

I wanted the film experience to be authentic, to transcend language. I didn't want to depend on the spoken word—after all, film is a visual medium.

Subtitles

"I wanted viewers to have a visceral reaction to what they saw onscreen. I didn't want the words to get in the way. —But I later decided to use subtitles, because they were needed, and they turned out to be very helpful."

Why did he finance the production himself? "Because nobody else wanted to do it." So, why didn't he just give up? "Because that's what art is—you commit yourself to it—you put your reputation and even your own money on the line, if that's what is needed to get your movie made."

Fortuitously, the buzz over "The Passion" should make the film a hit once it opens in more than 3,000 theaters worldwide on Ash Wednesday. But it has been a long struggle for Gibson, so he's entitled to his spiritual *and* material rewards. *(To be concluded)*

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
1 PISO
2001

ANG LAKAS NG PISO SA DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES Fiestamall & Cebu WaterFront, Lahug

₱49.99 = $1

FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO MARCH 14, 2004

OR PAY IN ANY FOREIGN CURRENCY AND GET THE CORRESPONDING DISCOUNT

*the discount on dollar purchases will be based on the percentage difference between the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rate of the day and P49.99

The best things in life are duty free.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0235 Series of 2004

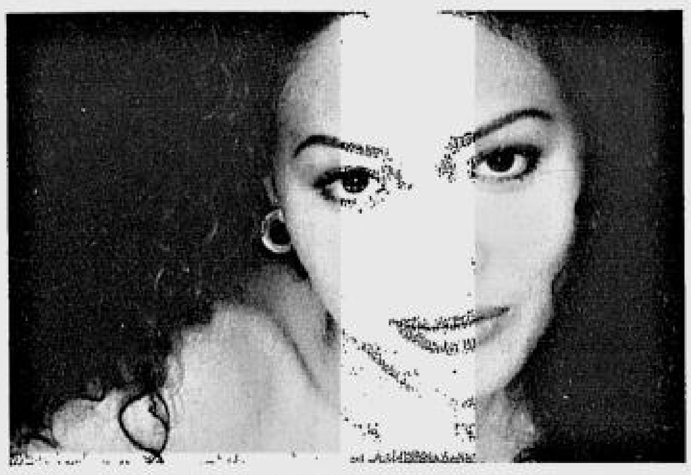
Anna goes home for free concert

TAKING a breather from her hectic schedule in Manila, singer Anna Fegi performed for free at an SRO benefit concert, "Anna Fegi: Home at Last," at the Andres Soriano Memorial College in her hometown, Lutopan, Cebu.

Gift

Her concert was held for the benefit of her school and for the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish.

After the concert, Dr. Genesa Paragados, OIC director of the school, wrote Anna a very touching letter: "Watching you onstage last night, we felt the great achievement of producing a wonderful person like you. You are an inspiration for us to give our best in everything we do, as we see you soar higher."


FEGI. Benefit show for her alma mater.

In the years she has not visited her hometown, Anna discovered sad changes. Her school is no longer supervised by the De La Salle Brothers. "In my time, our school was one of the best. We were also on top in terms of facilities. It is a private school, but it looks neglected now," she sighs.

But the welcome prepared by Anna's former teachers compensated for the sorry sight. Teachers rang the bell signaling the return of their very special guest, and there were flowers everywhere. Anna was deeply touched.

Earlier in the afternoon, Anna distributed goodies to children.

Simple barrio lass

Even more touching was the concert itself. It brought tears of joy not only to the simple barrio lass who has been able to make her dreams come true, but also to her townmates, who cheered for her.

What made the visit even more nostalgic was the fact that Anna's dad, Vic, used to be the school's technician. Her mom, Socorro, was a religion teacher.

Anna had been away for more than six years, but her performance truly brought her home at last.

Documentary about Pinoy rock at Pelikula at Lipunan

By Rica Arevalo

"PINOI Rock & Rhythm" is not what I thought it was—a rockumentary—a new term denoting a documentary about rock music or rock musicians.

Disc jockey

Dennis Empalmado's hour-long documentary visits disc jockey Dante "Howlin' Dave" David, musician Jun Lopito, "Brown Elvis" Chito Bertol and stillman Johnny Albia.

Rock and roll has been associated with a musical style that has influenced us for over 40 years. For some, it symbolizes drug abuse and a hedonistic lifestyle.

Howlin' Dave was the "voice" who helped popularize Pinoy rock in the '70s. But an interview with teen-age "rockers" reveals that they do not know about his contributions to the airwaves. Now stricken by an aneurysm, we see Howlin' Dave shirtless in his bed, listening to rock music.

DANTE "Howlin' Dave" David helped popularize rock music in the '70s.

He reminisces with Empalmado about his glory days in the rock scene. He sometimes looks lost, but his love for Pinoy rock embodies his soul.

Lopito, on the other hand, cherishes his connection with Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards.

Some may find Albia out of place in this documentary. He dreamt of becoming a popular action star but was relegated to being a stuntman. His career then shifted to becoming a still photographer of Philippine movies. But, all throughout the video, I felt Albia had fulfilled his dream of becoming an actor, because he was "acting" in this documentary.

Sound bytes

Rock and roll is about rebellion. Empalmado vivified this by creating a documentary with no clear narrative. Most interviewees' sound bytes have no connection with one another. But in the end, the director tried to redeem his subjects.

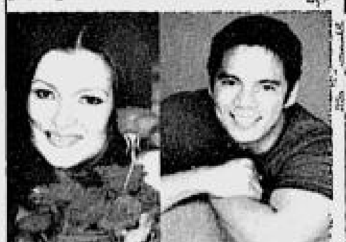
Lopito says, "*Marami akong na-*influence *na mga gitarista na maging parang ako. Alam nila ang buhay ko, mga pinagdaanan ko. Sa Pinoy* rock scene, *tutulong ako kung kailangan nila ang* services *ko, isu-*surrender *ko ang sarili ko sa kanila.*

"Ang nagawa ko sa mga Pilipino, yung pag-iisip nila nabago ko. Ginawa kong kagalang-galang yung musika na akala nila ay rebelde," reveals Howlin' Dave.

"Pinoi Rock & Rhythm" will be shown at Pelikula at Lipunan at 9 p.m. on Feb. 13, at SM Megamall's Cinema 6.

EXPERIENCE
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST-ALABANG
TRIPLE WEEKEND
SALE
UP TO 75% OFF
JAN.30-FEB.1, FEB.6-8, 13-15
Call Customer Service at 850-3514
www.festivalsupermall.com
DTI-NCR Permit A2-041, Series of 2004

Globe PLATINUM & PETRON XCS PLUS
in cooperation with
bench/ SHOPWISE AMA Computer University Asia's 1st and Largest IT University
Mido SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1918 DISCOVERY Suites WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO
present
ABBA The Music
World Tour 2004
A Valentine Retro Concert Party
Come Dance. Come Sing. Having the Time of your Life at the Official ABBA Celebration.
Performing Over 20 of ABBA's Greatest Hits! Including...
Dancing Queen • The Winner Takes it All • Knowing Me, Knowing You • Waterloo • S.O.S. • Mamma Mia • Take a Chance on Me • Money, Money, Money • I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do • Super Trouper • The Name of the Game • Voulez-Vous • Fernando • Plus Many More!
With Guest Performers Pinky Marquez & Bimbo Cerrudo



ABBA The Music is: Kaja Nord, Camilla Dahlin, Martin Hakansson, Henrik Olsson • Also Featuring Members of the Original ABBA Band • Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus
February 13, 2004
Waterfront Hotel Cebu
8:30pm
February 14, 2004
PSC-Ultra Covered Court
8:30pm
Sponsored By:
K for Less INK REFILLING STATION AMA BANK Philippine Airlines
Official Concert TV
GMA TAPE Inc.
Official Radio Stations
WRock 96.3 105.1 90.7 CROSSOVER INQUIRER
Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets, Araneta TicketNet (911-5555), Waterfront Hotel ((032) 232-6888), SM Cebu and ALV Events International (633-9825 to 27)
10% OFF Ticket Price for Globe Platinum Members
A PRODUCTION OF ALV EVENTS INTERNATIONAL

Super!Countdown
7 days 'til V-Day!

SATURDAY Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

fast love

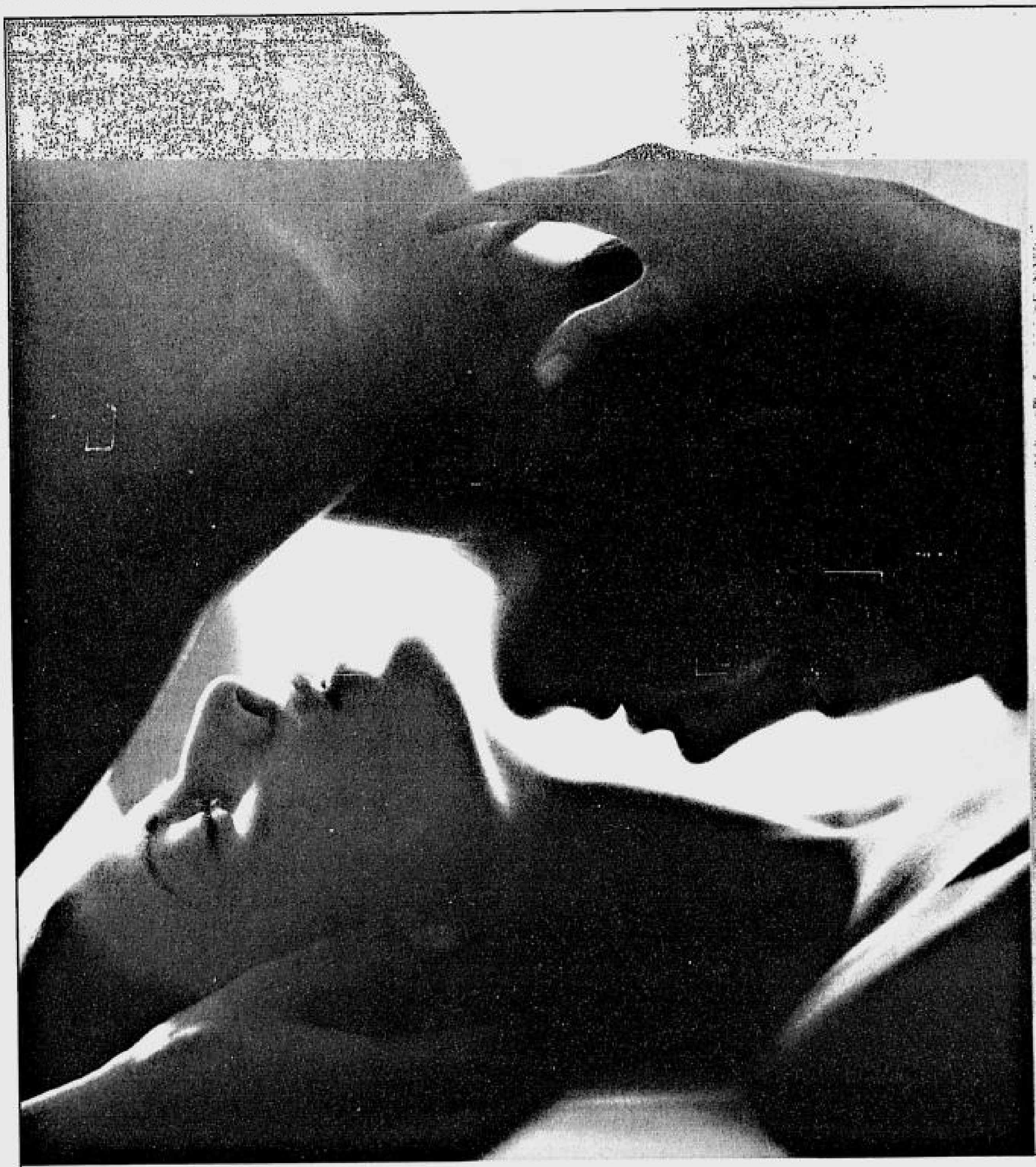
love palooza
love palooza

Date with Grammy nominated Nick Zinner of Yeah Yeah Yeahs page G2

Having problems with premature ejaculation? page F3

Star Struckout page G4

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography by STEVE TIRONA
Photo assistants:
MARCUS MAGUIGAD
and ALBERT GENATO



ATTRACTION

ATTRACTION
The new fragrance for women

LANCÔME
PARIS

Introducing a new expression of sensuality and fresh luminosity.
A passionate harmony blending iris and patchouli.
A fragrance shining with light.
Discover the full force of ATTRACTION today.

Your Gift
An elegant mordoré leather evening bag with a deluxe replica for every qualified purchase.

Valid until Feb. 15, 2004. - DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0089 Series of 2004
Exclusively at
Rustan's
Makati · Shangri-La · Alabang · Cebu

I just want your extra time and your... Kiss!

Photos By Steve Tirona

Tim Yap

HE DIED, that we may love and be loved. Pardon the patriotic slant. This Super! shoot, done in Liwasang Bonifacio fronting the Manila Post Office gathered random couples and made them lock lips before Steve Tirona's lenses.

If you look closely, two kids sit at Andres Bonifacio's feet while other couples surround the monument. Our cover couple, aged to happiness and perfection, are positioned front space center—all ready for their close up.

If you think this is a lot to gather, think again. Next Friday at the newly busting, romantic strip of Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard, barriers will be broken to celebrate love—for free! The country's top music acts, celebrities, and everybody else will also congregate to serenade couples who will "kiss-kiss" and celebrate Valentine's!

Top bands, acoustic masters, Djs and singing sensation **Sarah Geronimo** will perform in any of the three stages that will be set up along Baywalk with each stage offering a different musical treat. Acoustic superstars **Paolo Santos, Noel Cabangon** and **Wency Cornejo** will perform along with **Cookie Chua**, Hour Glass and U-Turn. Upping the entertainment ante will be Freestyle, R&B prince **JayR, Arnee**, Malik, the Kundirana, Retrospect and the exquisite 30-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of **Rodel Colemnar.** Dance music will be by dance guru **Manolet Dario** with **Fritz Barth** and the NBK Djs.

You don't feel like doing it for your beloved? Do it for your country. "Lovapalooza," a V-Day date on Feb. 13, is out to set a world record by having more than 5,000 couples kiss! This is to beat the Chilean world record of 8,890 people kissing last month in Santiago, the capital. And they did it in 10 seconds.

So, are we gonna beat our South American brothers and sisters? Guinness and CNN crews are coming to record our attempt. Well, if we could gather for Edsa 1 and 2, why can't we pucker up in the tens of thousands, in the name of love?

Now, to find my kissing partner...

> 'Lovapalooza,' a V-Day date on Feb. 13, is out to set a world record by having more than 5,000 couples kiss!

And now, to put your kissing IQ to the test...

Kissing Trivia

1. What is the "Kissing Bug"?
a. A kissing event back in 1970's held in Kissing, Germany.
b. A large species of bugs that like to suck the blood of mammals.
c. A famous painting of couples kissing in a park.

2. In what play was the quote taken from, "Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made/ For kissing, lady, not for such contempt."
a. Hamlet
b. Romeo and Juliet
c. Richard III

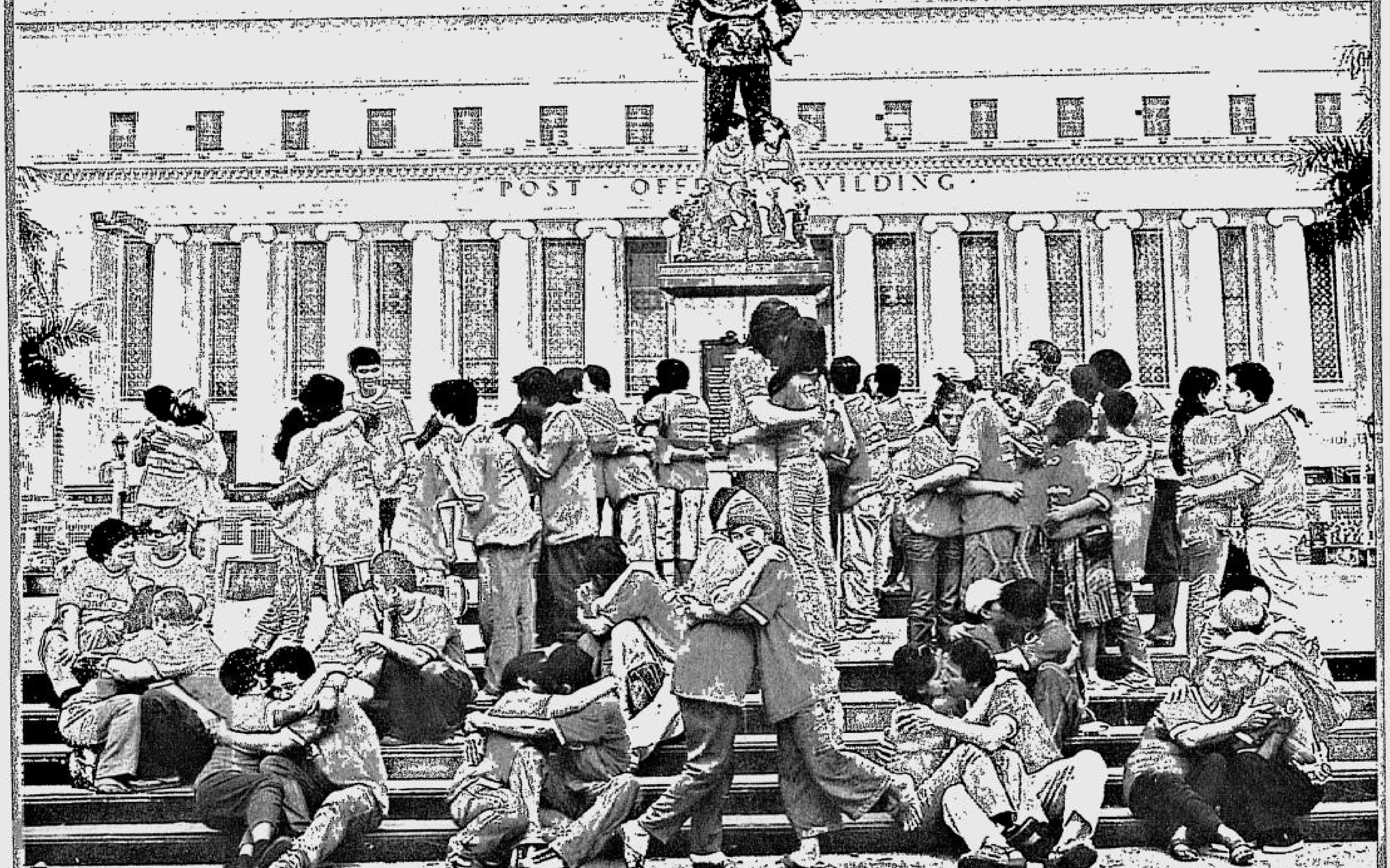
3. What famous Hollywood actress said the famous quote, "Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul."
a. Marilyn Monroe
b. Katherine Hepburn
c. Olivia de Havilland

4. From what movie did the song phrase come from, "You must remember this; A kiss is still a kiss, A sigh is just a sigh; The fundamental things apply, As time goes by."
a. Casablanca
b. Gone with the Wind
c. Only You

5. What nursery rhyme character kissed all the girls and made them cry?
a. Humpty Dumpty
b. Georgie Porgie
c. Tommy Thumb

6. What is the current kissing record by the most kissing couples?
a. 2,408 couples, 20 seconds
b. 1,588 couples, 15 seconds
c. 4,445 couples, 10 seconds

ANSWERS: 1:B, 2:C, 3:A, 4:A, 5:B, 6:C



perfect time
TIMESTUDIO
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL · [illegible] · SM MEGAMALL · SM PAMPANGA · SM BACOOR · SM BICUTAN · SM BAGUIO · SM MAKATI DEPT. STORE · SM MARILAO DEPT. STORE · [illegible] STORE · SM NORTH EDSA DEPT. STORE · ROBINSON'S GALLERIA DEPT. STORE · ROBINSON'S PLACE DEPT. STORE

Super! Back-to-back treat for Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight fans

BOYZ II Men will share the spotlight with Brian McKnight at the Ultra Open Field on Feb. 13, 8 p.m. And here's a bonus treat for all Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight concert watchers. Enjoy a night of the greatest R&B love songs as performed by two of the world's greatest acts and get a chance to win fabulous Valentine's gifts: A weekend getaway to Baguio, overnight stay at Discovery Suites, dinner date for two and more!

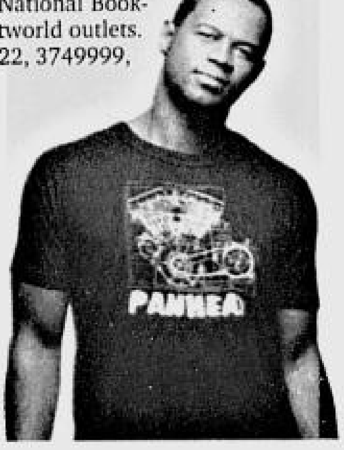
Here's how to join :

1. Every Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight concert ticket entitles you to qualify for the raffle.

2. Send your name, address, telephone number and seat number (found on your concert ticket) and e-mail it to super@inquirer.com.ph. All entries must be in by Feb. 11. Draw date will be on Feb. 14.

3. Winners will be notified through Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2bU! and Saturday Super! sections. Please keep your ticket stubs for verification.

Ticket prizes are as follows: P2,950 for premiere, P2,650 for de luxe, P1,550 for patron, P750 for the bleachers and P350 for general admission. Tickets are available at all National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets. Call 3742222, 3749999, 8919999.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I just want your extra time and your...Kiss!

Photos By Steve Tirona

Tim Yap

HE DIED, that we may love and be loved. Pardon the patriotic slant. This Super! shoot, done in Liwasang Bonifacio fronting the Manila Post Office gathered random couples and made them lock lips before Steve Tirona's lenses.

If you look closely, two kids sit at Andres Bonifacio's feet while other couples surround the monument. Our cover couple, aged to happiness and perfection, are positioned front space center—all ready for their close up.

If you think this is a lot to gather, think again. Next Friday at the newly busting, romantic strip of Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard, barriers will be broken to celebrate love—for free! The country's top music acts, celebrities, and everybody else will also congregate to serenade couples who will "kiss-kiss" and celebrate Valentine's!

Top bands, acoustic masters, Djs and singing sensation **Sarah Geronimo** will perform in any of the three stages that will be set up along Baywalk with each stage offering a different musical treat. Acoustic superstars **Paolo Santos, Noel Cabangon** and **Wency Cornejo** will perform along with **Cookie Chua**, Hour Glass and U-Turn. Upping the entertainment ante will be Freestyle, R&B prince **JayR**, **Arnee**, Malik, the Kundirana, Retrospect and the exquisite 30-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of **Rodel Colemnar**. Dance music will be by dance guru **Manolet Dario** with **Fritz Barth** and the NBK Djs.

You don't feel like doing it for your beloved? Do it for your country. "Lovapalooza," a V-Day date on Feb. 13, is out to set a world record by having more than 5,000 couples kiss! This is to beat the Chilean world record of 8,890 people kissing last month in Santiago, the capital. And they did it in 10 seconds.

So, are we gonna beat our South American brothers and sisters? Guinness and CNN crews are coming to record our attempt. Well, if we could gather for Edsa 1 and 2, why can't we pucker up in the tens of thousands, in the name of love?

Now, to find my kissing partner...

> 'Lovapalooza,' a V-Day date on Feb. 13, is out to set a world record by having more than 5,000 couples kiss!

And now, to put your kissing IQ to the test...

Kissing Trivia

1. What is the "Kissing Bug"?
a. A kissing event back in 1970's held in Kissing, Germany.
b. A large species of bugs that like to suck the blood of mammals.
c. A famous painting of couples kissing in a park.

2. In what play was the quote taken from, "Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made/ For kissing, lady, not for such contempt."
a. Hamlet
b. Romeo and Juliet
c. Richard III

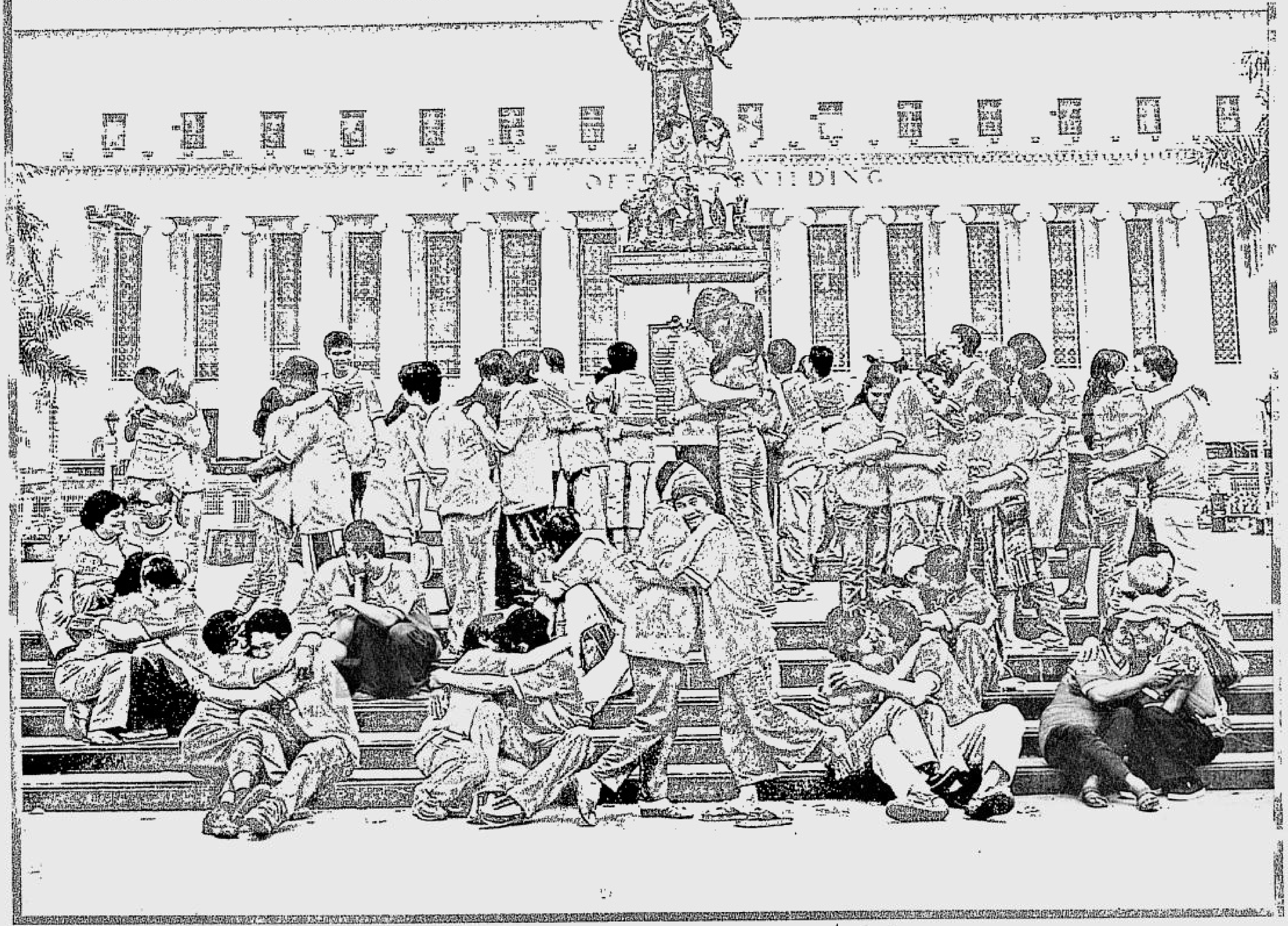
3. What famous Hollywood actress said the famous quote, "Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul."
a. Marilyn Monroe
b. Katherine Hepburn
c. Olivia de Havilland

4. From what movie did the song phrase come from, "You must remember this; A kiss is still a kiss, A sigh is just a sigh; The fundamental things apply, As time goes by."
a. Casablanca
b. Gone with the Wind
c. Only You

5. What nursery rhyme character kissed all the girls and made them cry?
a. Humpty Dumpty
b. Georgie Porgie
c. Tommy Thumb

6. What is the current kissing record by the most kissing couples?
a. 2,408 couples, 20 seconds
b. 1,588 couples, 15 seconds
c. 4,445 couples, 10 seconds

ANSWERS: 1.B, 2.C, 3A, 4.A, 5.B, 6C



TIMESTUDIO
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL · [illegible] · SM MEGAMALL · SM PAMPANGA · SM BACOOR · SM BICUTAN · SM BAGUIO · SM MAKATI DEPT. STORE · SM MARILAO DEPT. STORE · [illegible] DEPT. STORE · SM NORTH EDSA DEPT. STORE · ROBINSON'S GALLERIA DEPT. STORE · ROBINSON'S PLACE DEPT. STORE

Super! Back-to-back treat for Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight fans

BOYZ II Men will share the spotlight with Brian McKnight at the Ultra Open Field on Feb. 13, 8 p.m. And here's a bonus treat for all Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight concert watchers. Enjoy a night of the greatest R&B love songs as performed by two of the world's greatest acts and get a chance to win fabulous Valentine's gifts: A weekend getaway to Baguio, overnight stay at Discovery Suites, dinner date for two and more!

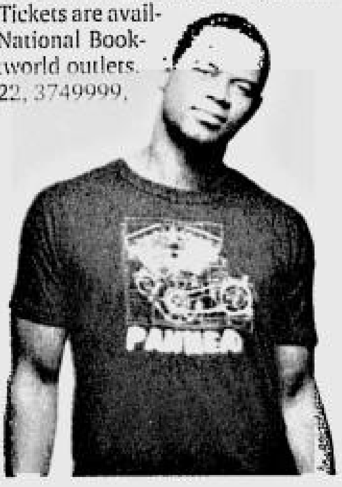
Here's how to join :

1. Every Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight concert ticket entitles you to qualify for the raffle.

2. Send your name, address, telephone number and seat number (found on your concert ticket) and e-mail it to super@inquirer.com.ph. All entries must be in by Feb. 11. Draw date will be on Feb. 14.

3. Winners will be notified through Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2bU! and Saturday Super! sections. Please keep your ticket stubs for verification.

Ticket prizes are as follows: P2,950 for premiere, P2,650 for de luxe, P1,550 for patron, P750 for the bleachers and P350 for general admission. Tickets are available at all National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets. Call 3742222, 3749999, 8919999.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vici, vidi, veni

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

I am a young man in my 20s who suffers from a condition called premature ejaculation. This has caused me embarrassment on several occasions. I no longer look forward to sex. I am currently involved with a very loving partner who says she understands, but I am sure even she is getting impatient with me. Any suggestions?

JULIUS Caesar walks amongst slaves prostrated before him, human trophies from his last campaign. He is there not only as conquering general, but also as a man looking for a suitable concubine. He picks a slave of particular beauty. Solemnly, the Praetorians escort the chosen consort to Caesar's tent where, in silent capitulation, she begins to disrobe under the weight of the great man's stare. Such a vessel of exquisite craftsmanship, with skin the color of brushed ochre and eyes like the weave of springtime! Caesar has never seen anything like her. Quickly, he casts off his cloak, his armor, his scabbard, his garments, his pendant of Mars—this is taking too long! But when he is finally as naked as Romulus by the Tiber, the legendary Julius Caesar, leader of half the civilized world, ejaculates nowhere near the amused slave. He conquered, he saw, he came.

Premature ejaculation is a condition often described as a man's inability to delay ejaculation up to a desired point during a sexual encounter. This is a very subjective definition, as "premature" varies from person to person. While some men lose the grip right upon entry, others consider anything under five minutes premature. According to a study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, a third of the men interviewed admitted having recurring problems with climaxing too early. Another report says the average male takes less than three minutes from the time of insertion. I say, you can't trust these studies regarding penis activity. Whether you go the whole length of a Britney Spears video or peak before the first gyration, the bottom line is whether or not you're satisfied.

Once attributed to the use of drugs or certain infections, premature ejaculation is now considered a psychological condition. Its exact nature is still a mystery, although a few sound theories have been forwarded. Anxiety and stress are considered probable causes, most notable during a man's first sexual experiences, and right before a Presidential erection ... I mean, election. The majority of sufferers gradually learn to control their orgasm, and don't even experience long-term effects. Some men will develop an extended anxiety towards sex. These men can't look at a Mr. Quickie outlet without blushing.

The fast and the furious

It is important to understand what happens to your body when approaching orgasm. There are three stages. The first is when the prostrate gland contracts and releases its fluids, along with the contents of the seminal vesicle, into the urethra. The second is when the pelvic muscle contracts strongly around the bulb, forcing the fluid out under considerable pressure. The third requires remembering her name. (Kidding. A simple "thanks" should suffice.) Familiarity with one's body and the ability to identify physiological reactions are the first steps to delaying arrival at the point of no return.

Desensitizing, the process of lessening sensation, is a popular remedy prescribed by many, uh, short-order cooks. Creams and condoms can diminish tactile sensitivity, thus delaying ejaculation, although the logic seems a bit absurd. That's like wearing sunglasses because the rainbow is too damn beautiful. Proper breathing, unbeknownst to most, also helps. Practice deep and easy breathing methods, my fast samurai, in order to achieve a state of calm and a general sense of well-being, like the Jedi do before they wield their light sabers. Another suggestion is to squeeze the base of the penis right before ejaculation to diffuse blood flow thus canceling the orgasm, but this sounds suspiciously feminist and may have been conjured by a man-hating lesbian.

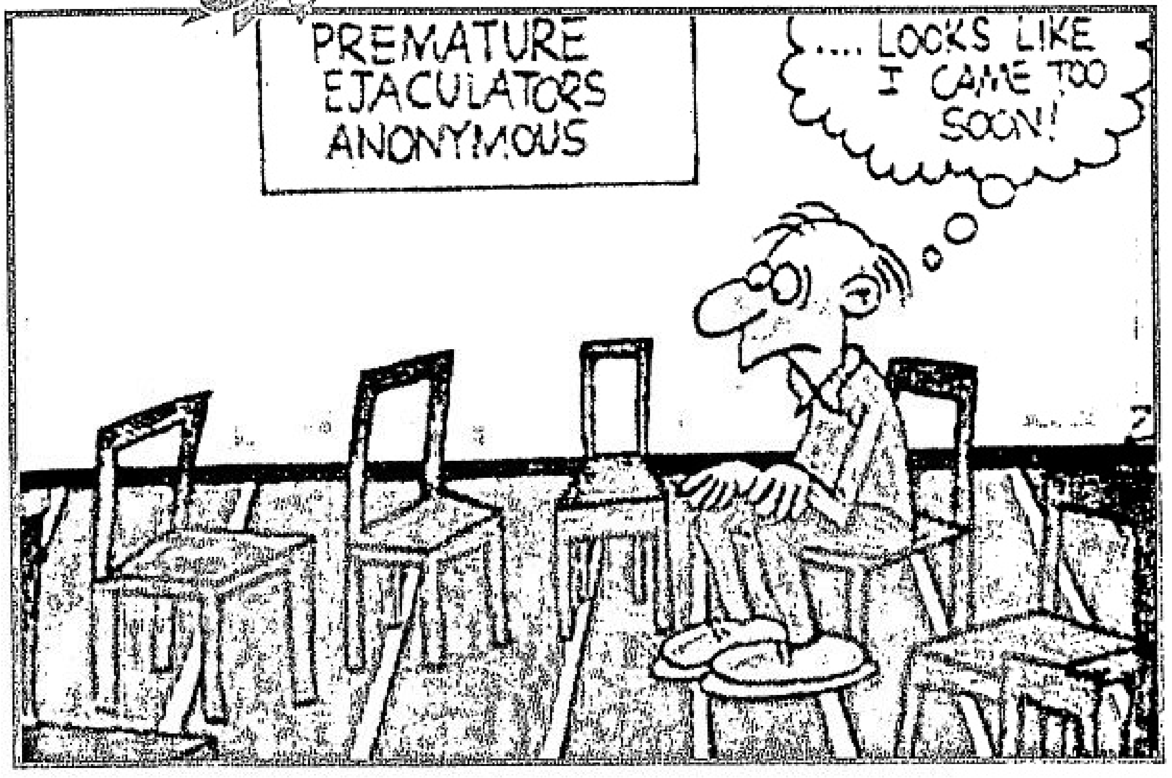
Then there's masturbation (which is said to be a sin) to alleviate sexual tension (instigated by the devil) thus improving endurance during sex (which, if indulged in outside of marriage, is also considered a sin). The last rows in many movie theaters are populated by men experimenting with this therapy. Those obsessive perverts at Masters and Johnson have offered a hilarious solution called "simulation," in which a man utilizes various sex toys such as Cybersnatch and Astroglide (somebody kill me) to recreate a sexual encounter. What peace there would be if every militant male in the world owned a pair of these classy items!

The early bird gets affirmed

The above-mentioned have been recommended by doctors and comedians, but communication with your partner is obviously the best solution. Becoming comfortable with yourself and with your significant other greatly reduces tension. Be open to suggestions from one another. Instruct her to be encouraging—and if necessary, to lie—about your sexual performance. Try to be a good spurt about it ... I mean, sport. Different positions and pacing could likewise result in prolongations. Finally, there is that potent force, oft overlooked in government, called imagination. There is nothing like a vivid image to either inspire or retire sexual arousal. I'm not even going to make a suggestion.

Take heart, Johnny-come-early, that with proper perspective and conditioning, premature ejaculation will be no more than a temporary setback. I commiserate with your frustration and I offer you my best wishes. And if, like Caesar, you find your pants wet before you even cross the Rubicon, then simply become an actor in the movies, where performance is often negligible, and nothing excites more than the words "Coming soon."

(E-mail author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)


PREMATURE EJACULATORS ANONYMOUS
... LOOKS LIKE I CAME TOO SOON!

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Connect to richer mobile Internet content.

• Big Brilliant 65,536 Color Display • Built-in Camera with 2x Digital Zoom • Video (with Audio) Recorder with 2x Digital Zoom • Video Streaming • Expandable Memory with Multimedia Memory Card • Bluetooth™ and Infrared Connectivity • Personalizable User Interface Themes • True Tones • Mobile Services WAP Browser • Java™ & Symbian Application Support • Tri-band

NOKIA 6600
The Power of Imaging

Know more @ www.n6600.com

Specifications are subject to change without notice. WAP, Data Speeds, GPRS, HSCSD, wTCP/IP are network dependent services. Please check with your operator on activation procedures and rates. As an assurance of quality, purchase only from Authorized Nokia Dealers. For inquiries, email us at write_nokia@nokia.com or call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUN CELLULAR

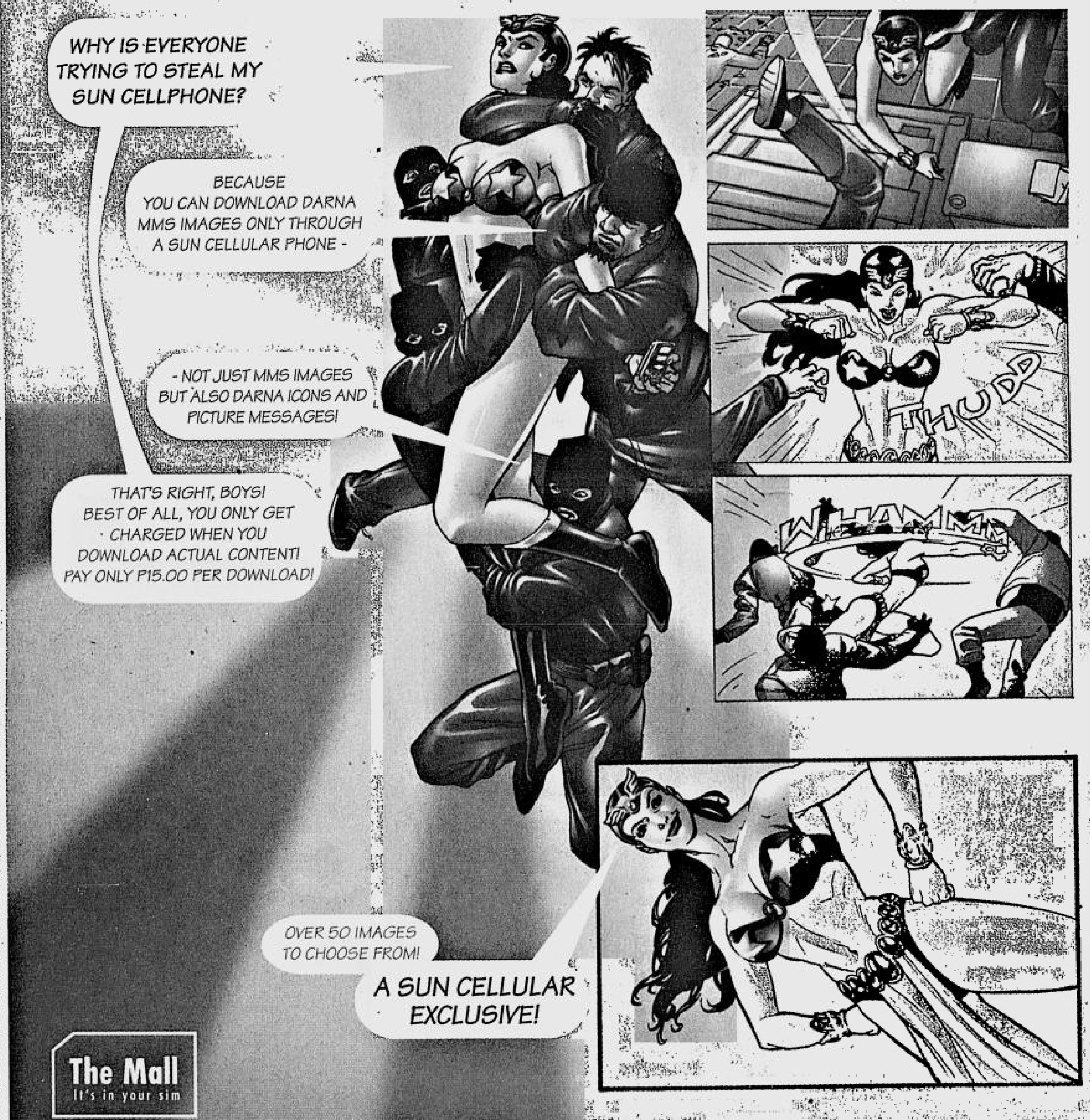
PROUDLY PRESENTS

MARS RAVELO'S

DARNA

IN

"THE ALL-NEW DOWNLOAD ADVENTURES"


WHY IS EVERYONE TRYING TO STEAL MY SUN CELLPHONE?
BECAUSE YOU CAN DOWNLOAD DARNA MMS IMAGES ONLY THROUGH A SUN CELLULAR PHONE -
- NOT JUST MMS IMAGES BUT ALSO DARNA ICONS AND PICTURE MESSAGES!
THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS! BEST OF ALL, YOU ONLY GET CHARGED WHEN YOU DOWNLOAD ACTUAL CONTENT! PAY ONLY P15.00 PER DOWNLOAD!
THUD
WHAMM
OVER 50 IMAGES TO CHOOSE FROM!
A SUN CELLULAR EXCLUSIVE!
The Mall
It's in your sim

Darna_w_Ding

Darna_TopView.

Darna_Face3

Narda_Shoutn

Darna_Face4

Darna_Flying2

Darna_Face5

Darna_Face2

Darna_Flying5

Darna_Fightin

Darna_Face4

Darna_Flying4

DOWNLOADING INSTRUCTIONS

CONTENT TYPE	OPTION 1: Surfing "The Mall"	OPTION 2: Keyword access
Darna MMS IMAGES	Click The Mall >> Enter Mall >> Arcade >> Pics&Sounds >> Multimedia >> MStyle >> darna >> (Select MMS)	Type MULTIMEDIA>> Send to 2300 >> Click MStyle >> darna >> (Select MMS)
Darna ICONS	Click The Mall >> Enter Mall >> Arcade >> Pics&Sounds >> Icons >> MStyle >> darna >> (Select Icon)	Type ICONS >> Send to 2300 >> Click MStyle >> darna >> (Select Icon)
Darna PIC MSG	Click The Mall >> Enter Mall >> Arcade >> Pics&Sounds >> Pic Msg >> MStyle >> darna >> (Select Pic Msg)	Type MULTIMEDIA>> Send to 2300 >> Click MStyle >> darna >> (Select Pic Msg)

You may download other contents from a wide selection of cool and fun graphics, polytones and ring tones available at "The Mall". Click The Mall >> Enter Mall >> Arcade >> Pics & Sounds >> (Select a content).

Darna colored images are compatible with MMS Nokia and Sony Ericsson phones only.
Darna icons and picture messages are displayed using both SMS and MMS-based Nokia and Sony Ericsson handsets.

For more information you can visit www.suncellular.com.ph or call our 24-hour hotline through 395-8000 or dial 200 for toll-free calls using your Sun Cellular phone.

sun CELLULAR

Everything Important is Under the Sun

SATURDA Super *ai*

CLAIRVOYANT Ruffa telling my fortune

Ruffa @ Pasha

RUFFA and I have been friends since 1997.

I was in London the past year, and so I missed two of the most important events in her life: her wedding and the birth of her first baby.

Last month, we managed to be in Manila at the same time. Naturally, there was much catching up to do.

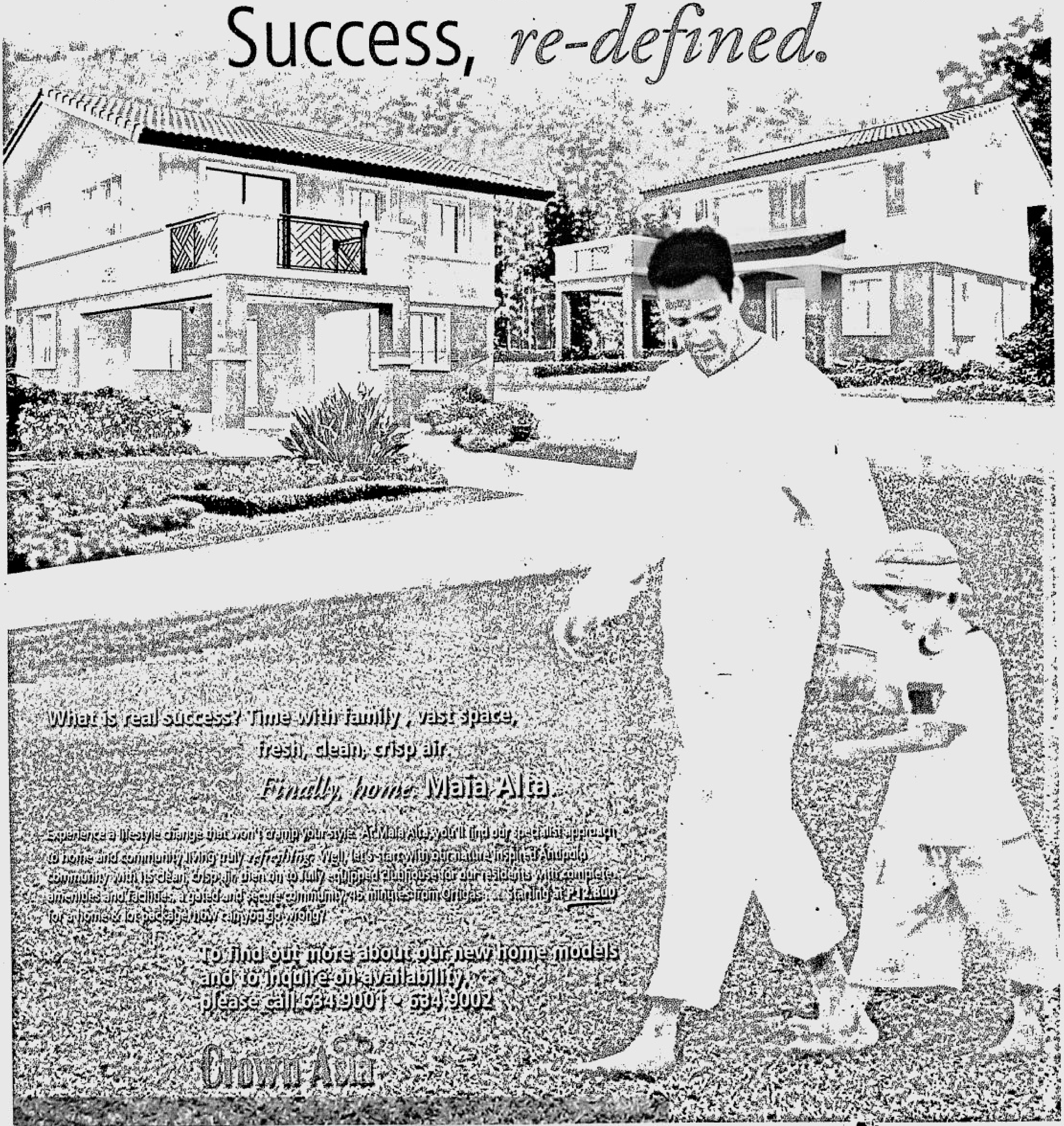
I accompanied her to the baby shower that Gina de Venecia threw for little Lorin. We went to the beauty parlor just like old times, and we even managed to sit down to a meal at Pasha in Greenbelt 3.

RUFFA/ G3

this WEEK @ SM SUPERMALLS

HIMIG HANDOG Love Songs
Love The 2nd Time around
Ana Fegi , 17:28 & Josh Santana
February 7

SM City FAIRVIEW
5pm
Activity Area,
Lower Ground Floor



Success, *re-defined.*

What is real success? Time with family , vast space,
fresh, clean, crisp air.
Finally, home. Maia Alta.

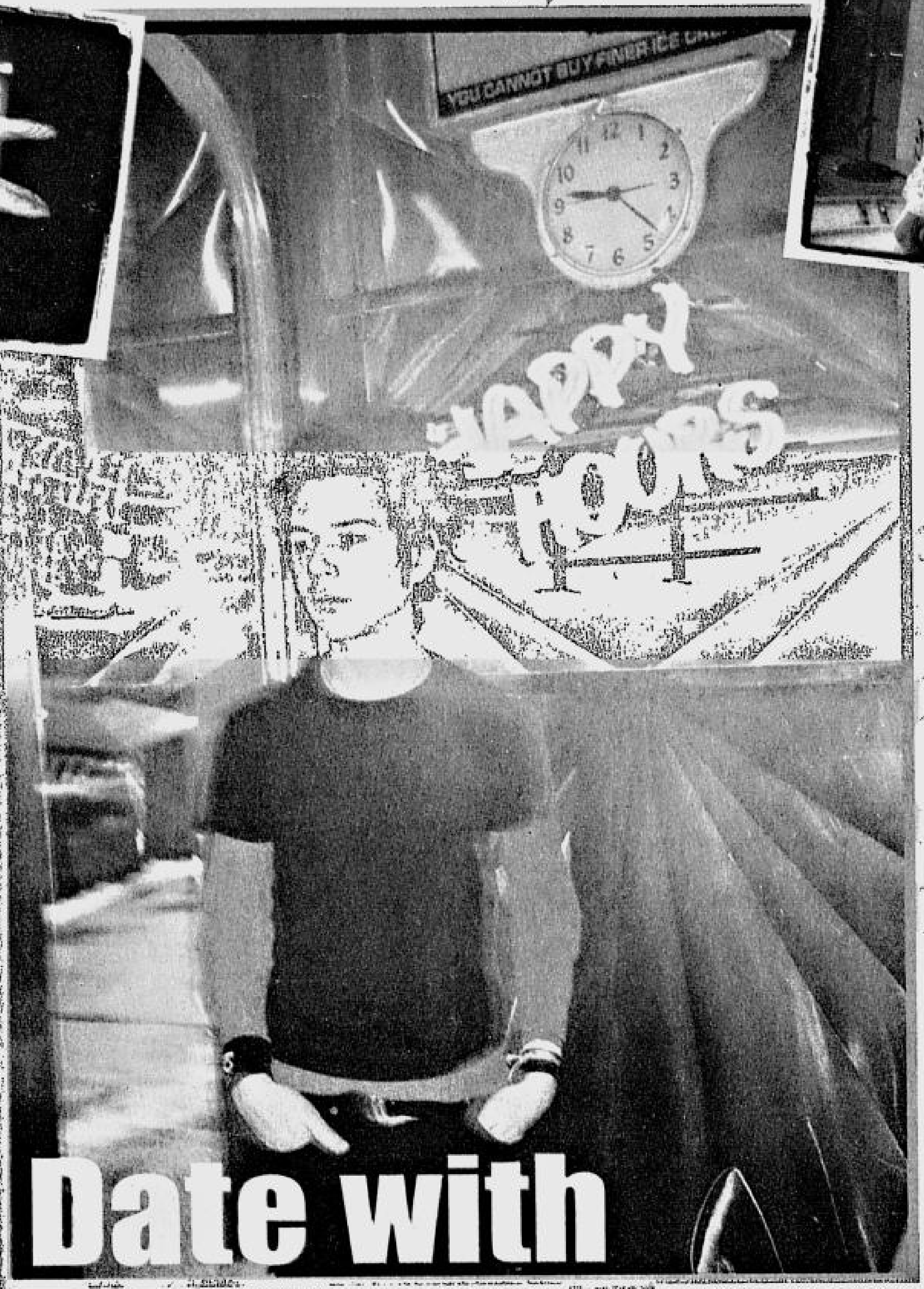
Experience a lifestyle change that won't cramp your style. At Maia Alta, you'll find our specialist approach to home and community living truly *refreshing*. Well, let's start with our nature-inspired Antipolo community with its clean, crisp air then on to fully equipped clubhouse for our residents with complete amenities and facilities, a gated and secure community, 45 minutes from Ortigas . . . Starting at P12,800 for a home & lot package, how can you go wrong?

To find out more about our new home models
and to inquire on availability,
please call 634 9001 • 634 9002

Crown Asia

Maia Alta
ANTIPOLO CITY

ZINNER or saint?


YOU CANNOT BUY FINER ICE CR

Date with Nick

I SAY yeah yeah yeah!

By Mich Dulce
Photos by Paolo Raymundo

IT'S 4 p.m. and I'm at Stingy Lulu's, a kitschy diner on St. Marks Place in New York, waiting for Nick Zinner.

Ten minutes later, my friend Rina spots him outside, his hair making him impossible to miss. It shocked me to see him just walking on the street like everyone else, considering he's only the guitarist for the Grammy-nominated band Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and photographer for the books "No Seats On The Party Car" and the recently released "Slept in Beds." This last one has photos of every bed he slept in last year. After introductions and small talk about New York smoking laws and the recent Yeah Yeah Yeahs show in LA, we settle into a booth and begin.

Super! : For the record, your full name and birthdate.

Nick Zinner: Nicholas Zinner, December 8, 1974.

And you are photographer, dj, and guitarist for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and TV on the Radio?

No, That was just like, a guest appearance. I'd put dj in parenthesis because I'm not really a dj, but I do it sometimes. I just like playing records and that's about it.

And Unitard, with Karen O? What's that?

That was our first project, like I guess, three and a half years ago, almost four years ago, when I first met Karen, when we started hanging out. That was the first music that we did.

How did you get into music?

I played violin when I was a kid.

Yeah?

Yeah, Actually I was really good. Kind of a prodigy (laughs), if I may say so myself. And then I guess the first inklings of artistic dissatisfaction (came) when I was like 11 or 12, I got sort of frustrated and bored with the violin and my mother had an acoustic guitar that I sort of picked up and just started playing. It was like, as I was getting into rock music, like, punk rock, so it was sort of natural. Kinda being anti-social as a kid.

How did you get into photography?

I had a girlfriend actually in high school who was really into photography. So I just sort of tried it out and took portraits of her looking all goth in the forest (laughs).

So you're a goth boy, are you?

Little bit, little bit. Kind of everything. And then I took a trip to Europe with a friend for a few months and took a lot of photographs from that and just really liked it.

How old were you then?

Seventeen? That was really fun.

What influences your work as a photographer?

I guess it's just kind of like a longing for documentation and recording things that fade away.

On your website, you take pictures of the crowd right before a gig.

No, usually during a song, or right before a song starts, or if our drummer starts the song or something. So I go ahead and do it. Which is fun.

And you take a picture of every bed you sleep in.

Yeah, the bed thing started before we started touring, before I was in any band.

I used to travel a lot. Whenever I could get out of New York and have enough money, I'd run around in weird countries. If you go somewhere really unfamiliar, photography is a really good way of actually exploring the environment that you're in and interacting with it and looking at it in a different way.

If there was one place you could see yourself living in, where would it be?

There's a few places that I'd like to live in for short periods of time, like maybe six months to a year—Tokyo or Bali or Berlin, but I'm still trying to figure out where.

PEACE, PISS. Nick and Mich chillaxing

Growing up, what music did you listen to?

Mostly metal and punk rock.

If I went to see you dj, what kind of music would I expect to hear?

Probably a lot of obscure '80s dance music and early '90s hip hop. Just fun stuff.

What inspires your music?

It's hard to say. I was actually just discussing this with a friend of mine in LA a few nights ago. Sometimes you wait for the inspiration to hit, or something will happen to you emotionally or physically or situationally that just inspires, and it's sort of like a rush of feeling and emotion and you can contain it or put it into something. And that's usually what it is; you can't try to get disciplined when it comes to inspiration.

Photography-wise?

I'm not trying to set anything up or say anything other than what's happening. It's hard to say about inspiration.

What camera do you use?

For the first book, just a manual camera, a Nikon. And then recently just because I haven't had the time to go into the dark room and kind of gotten more interested in color ...

No special equipment or anything?

No, I've never been one to geek out on technical stuff. I always feel like, whatever is the simplest way to get your message across, to do your work. As long as it gets done it doesn't really matter. If it's a five-dollar camera and you like that, then that's great.

If you weren't a photographer or a musician what would you be doing?

Yikes. Ummm. Looking for work (laughs). I don't know. The only other jobs I've had outside of photo and music is like, working in a clothes store, really kind of shitty. Like working in a restaurant or stuff like that. I don't know.

I never figured it out, really. I kind of got lucky.

If you could be anything... you'd still choose music?

Well, I'd like to make films, that would be fun. I don't really know. I spent years trying to figure out what I should do with my life and nothing else really rang true. I even tried doing office jobs and I just kind of went crazy.

If you could collaborate with anyone who would it be?

Photography, it would probably be Robert Frank, who is probably my favorite black-and-white photographer from the '50s. He's a Swiss guy who came to America and traveled all around and took pictures of America at that time that he saw it as an outsider. The photographs are really beautiful, really twisted and just great. Musically, PJ Harvey, Outkast, Bjork.

You've toured with Bjork.

Yeah, we did two shows with her, that was fun. Oh, and Missy Elliot.

Does family play any role in your being a musician?

> The freakiest thing a fan ever did to Zinner, Yeah Yeah Yeahs' guitarist, was to ask him to sign on her face.

My mother played guitar and my father plays piano.

Do you see yourself married and with kids?

Absolutely not.

No?

No.

Not at all?

No.

How often do you play or practice?

As a band, we never practice. I try to play everyday. As part of the discipline I was talking about before in creation of music, I just try to do at least one thing every day, just get one music idea and put it on tape, whether it's guitar or keyboard or drum machine or just sort of something.

Wait. Guitar, keyboard, drum machine? Any other instrument you can play that we should know about?

Well, I can play the drums, too.

And violin.

Not anymore, actually. Weird. I tried, I can't. Karen actually just started playing violin, she's probably better than me (laughs). I guess that's it. I mean you can sort of fake any instrument after a while. I can't really play anything.

What guitar equipment do you use?

I mostly play a Fender Stratocaster ... the rest is secret/boring.

What do you consider your best photo so far, and why?

A photo of four nuns. It's the right combination of directness and luck. I guess like instinct and luck would be the best way to put it—not thinking about taking it and just doing it and seeing it work out.

This is my favorite question. The Village Voice said you had the best hair in rock. Who cuts it, and how do you keep it that way?

I cut it and I just don't really take care of it. I let it do its own thing. Sometimes I sort of have to suggest things for it to do (laughs). Encouragement.

Was it always so big?

It was actually bigger when I was a kid.

I also am queen of the big hair.

See, that's cool. Unite, Big Hair, unite!

Does it make you angry when people ask if they can touch your hair?

Yeah.

I'm not going to ask it then. How do you get around New York?

Usually by subway or on foot. I love the subway in New York. I know a lot of people hate it but I like it. It's really convenient and faster than cabs mostly, and it's amazing to be thrown in this little box with all these different people you'd never otherwise see.

Do you get fans who are like, "Oh my god, I'm sitting next to Nick Zinner!"

It happened once, twice, not really. I've seen people be all sly and take pictures of me in the subway (laughs).

There are online journals dedicated to you.

I just saw that. It's so weird and kind of funny. But I dunno. New York, its kind of like an unspoken thing. We don't really go up and talk to people.

That's a good tip because I'm the queen of, "Omigod, famous person!" What's the freakiest thing a fan ever did?

Asking me to sign their face (laughs).

You should have taken a photo!

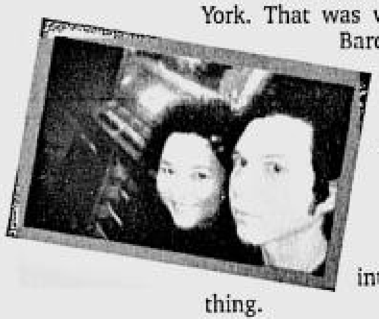
I did, actually (laughs), I did. It was funny.

I heard Shirley Manson and Marilyn Manson were both at one of your gigs.

Yeah, they actually met for the first time at that gig. I was pretty excited about that.

Did you go to school?

Yeah I did, I went to school in upstate New York. That was where I studied photo. At Bard. It was a Liberal Arts school. I never went to school for music. But I was playing with people in my old band at that time.



Britney or Christina?

Christina.

I hate you!

Although lately I'm kind of into Britney's whole marriage thing.

That was great.

But you choose Christina.

Yeah I think so.

Aww, man.

Just because that new Britney record is so bad. There's only one song, you know that single that just came out, it's awesome. But the rest is awful, like it's really bad. In my opinion.

What's the first thing you do when you wake up?

Cough? Usually drink coffee and check e-mail. That's usually it.

What do you smoke?

Winston Lights.

So you guys are nominated for a Grammys.

Yeah. For Alternative Album of the Year. It's amazing. It's such an absurd thing that it hasn't even hit me yet, Last night, as I was trying to fall asleep at five in the morning, I started to think about it and I got really excited about it for the first time.

When is Grammy night?

Feb. 8, in LA. It's amazing that we were picked, five records out of probably 10,000 records that came out last year. It's kind of a nice recognition, obviously not the end-all and be-all, but a bunch of mostly old men I guess will vote on it, but it's still really nice. It makes our record label happy.

Are you guys performing at the Grammys?

No ... I wish Beyonce would ask me to play with her, though.

You're so busy now...

I know, but actually with Yeah Yeah Yeahs, we're only going to do two more tours, just the United States in March and then Europe in April, and then we're going to take a big break for six or eight months. We'll just write new songs and collaborate with other people until we record and tour again.

When will you release the next Yeah Yeah Yeahs album?

No idea. Either late winter 2004 or early spring 2005.

Nick shuts off the recorder, but it doesn't end our conversation—about past girlfriends, gigs he didn't want to play, Japanese fans, and his interest in Manila. But you'll never know, because I'll never tell.

"No Seats On The Party Car" and "Slept in Beds" is available on www.eviltwinpublications.com

Thanks to Rina Raymundo for assistance, Moke of Stingy Lulu's, Stacy Wakefield of Evil Twin Publications.

(E-mail the author at candycolouredkisses@yahoo.com)

MUSICIAN, photographer and artist

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ZINNER or saint?

I SAY yeah yeah yeah!

Date with Nick

By Mich Dulce
Photos by Paolo Raymundo

IT'S 4 p.m. and I'm at Stingy Lulu's, a kitschy diner on St. Marks Place in New York, waiting for Nick Zinner.

Ten minutes later, my friend Rina spots him outside, his hair making him impossible to miss. It shocked me to see him just walking on the street like everyone else, considering he's only the guitarist for the Grammy-nominated band Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and photographer for the books "No Seats On The Party Car" and the recently released "Slept in Beds." This last one has photos of every bed he slept in last year. After introductions and small talk about New York smoking laws and the recent Yeah Yeah Yeahs show in LA, we settle into a booth and begin.

Super! : **For the record, your full name and birthdate.**

Nick Zinner: Nicholas Zinner, December 8, 1974.

And you are photographer, dj, and guitarist for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and TV on the Radio?

No, That was just like, a guest appearance. I'd put dj in parenthesis because I'm not really a dj, but I do it sometimes. I just like playing records and that's about it.

And Unitard, with Karen O? What's that?

That was our first project, like I guess, three and a half years ago, almost four years ago, when I first met Karen, when we started hanging out. That was the first music that we did.

How did you get into music?

I played violin when I was a kid.

Yeah?

Yeah, Actually I was really good. Kind of a prodigy (laughs), if I may say so myself. And then I guess the first inklings of artistic dissatisfaction (came) when I was like 11 or 12, I got sort of frustrated and bored with the violin and my mother had an acoustic guitar that I sort of picked up and just started playing. It was like, as I was getting into rock music, like, punk rock, so it was sort of natural. Kinda being anti-social as a kid.

How did you get into photography?

I had a girlfriend actually in high school who was really into photography. So I just sort of tried it out and took portraits of her looking all goth in the forest (laughs).

So you're a goth boy, are you?

Little bit, little bit. Kind of everything. And then I took a trip to Europe with a friend for a few months and took a lot of photographs from that and just really liked it.

How old were you then?

Seventeen? That was really fun.

What influences your work as a photographer?

I guess it's just kind of like a longing for documentation and recording things that fade away.

On your website, you take pictures of the crowd right before a gig.

No, usually during a song, or right before a song starts, or if our drummer starts the song or something. So I go ahead and do it. Which is fun.

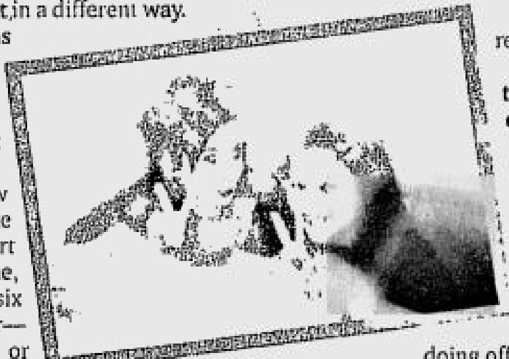
And you take a picture of every bed you sleep in.

Yeah, the bed thing started before we started touring, before I was in any band.

I used to travel a lot. Whenever I could get out of New York and have enough money, I'd run around in weird countries. If you go somewhere really unfamiliar, photography is a really good way of actually exploring the environment that you're in and interacting with it and looking at it in a different way.

If there was one place you could see yourself living in, where would it be?

There's a few places that I'd like to live in for short periods of time, like maybe six months to a year—Tokyo or Bali or Berlin, but I'm still trying to figure out where.



PEACE, PISS. Nick and Mich chillaxing

Growing up, what music did you listen to?

Mostly metal and punk rock.

If I went to see you dj, what kind of music would I expect to hear?

Probably a lot of obscure '80s dance music and early '90s hip hop. Just fun stuff.

What inspires your music?

It's hard to say. I was actually just discussing this with a friend of mine in LA a few nights ago. Sometimes you wait for the inspiration to hit, or something will happen to you emotionally or physically or situationally that just inspires, and it's sort of like a rush of feeling and emotion and you can contain it or put it into something. And that's usually what it is; you can't try to get disciplined when it comes to inspiration.

Photography-wise?

I'm not trying to set anything up or say anything other than what's happening. It's hard to say about inspiration.

What camera do you use?

For the first book, just a manual camera, a Nikon. And then recently just because I haven't had the time to go into the dark room and kind of gotten more interested in color ...

No special equipment or anything?

No, I've never been one to geek out on technical stuff. I always feel like, whatever is the simplest way to get your message across, to do your work. As long as it gets done it doesn't really matter. If it's a five-dollar camera and you like that, then that's great.

If you weren't a photographer or a musician what would you be doing?

Yikes. Ummm. Looking for work (laughs). I don't know. The only other jobs I've had outside of photo and music is like, working in a clothes store, really kind of shitty. Like working in a restaurant or stuff like that. I don't know.

I never figured it out, really. I kind of got lucky.

If you could be anything... you'd still choose music?

Well, I'd like to make films, that would be fun. I don't really know. I spent years trying to figure out what I should do with my life and nothing else really rang true. I even tried doing office jobs and I just kind of went crazy.

If you could collaborate with anyone who would it be?

Photography, it would probably be Robert Frank, who is probably my favorite black-and-white photographer from the '50s. He's a Swiss guy who came to America and traveled all around and took pictures of America at that time that he saw it as an outsider. The photographs are really beautiful, really twisted and just great. Musically, PJ Harvey, Outkast, Bjork.

You've toured with Bjork.

Yeah, we did two shows with her, that was fun. Oh, and Missy Elliot.

Does family play any role in your being a musician?

> The freakiest thing a fan ever did to Zinner, Yeah Yeah Yeahs' guitarist, was to ask him to sign on her face.

MUSICIAN, photographer and artist

My mother played guitar and my father plays piano.

Do you see yourself married and with kids?

Absolutely not.

No?

No.

Not at all?

No.

How often do you play or practice?

As a band, we never practice. I try to play everyday. As part of the discipline I was talking about before in creation of music, I just try to do at least one thing every day, just get one music idea and put it on tape, whether it's guitar or keyboard or drum machine or just sort of something.

Wait. Guitar, keyboard, drum machine? Any other instrument you can play that we should know about?

Well, I can play the drums, too.

And violin.

Not anymore, actually. Weird. I tried, I can't. Karen actually just started playing violin, she's probably better than me (laughs). I guess that's it. I mean you can sort of fake any instrument after a while. I can't really play anything.

What guitar equipment do you use?

I mostly play a Fender Stratocaster ... the rest is secret/boring.

What do you consider your best photo so far, and why?

A photo of four nuns. It's the right combination of directness and luck. I guess like instinct and luck would be the best way to put it—not thinking about taking it and just doing it and seeing it work out.

This is my favorite question. The Village Voice said you had the best hair in rock. Who cuts it, and how do you keep it that way?

I cut it and I just don't really take care of it. I let it do its own thing. Sometimes I sort of have to suggest things for it to do (laughs). Encouragement.

Was it always so big?

It was actually bigger when I was a kid.

I also am queen of the big hair.

See, that's cool. Unite, Big Hair, unite!

Does it make you angry when people ask if they can touch your hair?

Yeah.

I'm not going to ask it then. How do you get around New York?

Usually by subway or on foot. I love the subway in New York. I know a lot of people hate it but I like it. It's really convenient and faster than cabs mostly, and it's amazing to be thrown in this little box with all these different people you'd never otherwise see.

Do you get fans who are like, "Oh my god, I'm sitting next to Nick Zinner!"

It happened once, twice, not really. I've seen people be all sly and take pictures of me in the subway (laughs).

There are online journals dedicated to you.

I just saw that. It's so weird and kind of funny. But I dunno. New York, its kind of like an unspoken thing. We don't really go up and talk to people.

That's a good tip because I'm the queen of, "Omigod, famous person!" What's the freakiest thing a fan ever did?

Asking me to sign their face (laughs).

You should have taken a photo!

I did, actually (laughs), I did. It was funny.

I heard Shirley Manson and Marilyn Manson were both at one of your gigs.

Yeah, they actually met for the first time at that gig. I was pretty excited about that.

Did you go to school?

Yeah I did, I went to school in upstate New York. That was where I studied photo. At Bard. It was a Liberal Arts school. I never went to school for music. But I was playing with people in my old band at that time.

Britney or Christina?

Christina.

I hate you!

Although lately I'm kind of into Britney's whole marriage thing.

That was great.

But you choose Christina.

Yeah I think so.

Aww, man.

Just because that new Britney record is so bad. There's only one song, you know that single that just came out, it's awesome. But the rest is awful, like it's really bad. In my opinion.

What's the first thing you do when you wake up?

Cough? Usually drink coffee and check e-mail. That's usually it.

What do you smoke?

Winston Lights.

So you guys are nominated for a Grammys.

Yeah. For Alternative Album of the Year. It's amazing. It's such an absurd thing that it hasn't even hit me yet, Last night, as I was trying to fall asleep at five in the morning, I started to think about it and I got really excited about it for the first time.

When is Grammy night?

Feb. 8, in LA. It's amazing that we were picked, five records out of probably 10,000 records that came out last year. It's kind of a nice recognition, obviously not the end-all and be-all, but a bunch of mostly old men I guess will vote on it, but it's still really nice. It makes our record label happy.

Are you guys performing at the Grammys?

No ... I wish Beyonce would ask me to play with her, though.

You're so busy now..!

I know, but actually with Yeah Yeah Yeahs, we're only going to do two more tours, just the United States in March and then Europe in April, and then we're going to take a big break for six or eight months. We'll just write new songs and collaborate with other people until we record and tour again.

When will you release the next Yeah Yeah Yeahs album?

No idea. Either late winter 2004 or early spring 2005.

Nick shuts off the recorder, but it doesn't end our conversation—about past girlfriends, gigs he didn't want to play, Japanese fans, and his interest in Manila. But you'll never know, because I'll never tell.

"No Seats On The Party Car" and "Slept in Beds" is available on www.eviltwinpublications.com

Thanks to Rina Raymundo for assistance, Moke of Stingy

Lulu's, Stacy Wakefield of Evil Twin Publications.

(E-mail the author at candycolouredkisses@yahoo.com)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ruffa @ Pasha

From page G1

Music by Tarkan, Turkey's Ricky Martin, was playing in the restaurant. Ruffa's husband Yilmaz once gave me a Tarkan CD; the two guys are very good friends.

Turkish delight

Pasha was Ruffa's pick. Who better to judge, indeed, if the place was worthy of its Turkish-Mediterranean tag than this adopted "princess" of Turkey?

We started with a platter of meze dishes (appetizers)—a combination of hummus, taboulleh, falafel and borek served with pita bread. This was followed by dolma, piyaz and a refreshing Mediterranean Turkish salad in ultra light lemon dressing balanced with mild spices and parsley.

Most mezes, if not all, are vegetarian, and use a limitless array of the freshest raw ingredients, perfectly tossed together and bathed in first-press olive oil.

Ruffa exclaimed: "Yilmaz would love it here. His mom loves to cook, and often serves homemade meals including dolma, a special baby lamb dish that she makes in her oven."

Super!: So Yasmin (her Muslim name), tell me about your new life in Turkey.

Ruffa: It's so weird that you're interviewing me. Anyway, people may think I walk around with my head covered. I can if I want to, but it's against the law to go to school, or to work in goverment offices wearing the veils. Turkey is modern cosmopolitan, and most people prefer European fashion.

By 10 p.m., I have to be home. Yilmaz allows me to go out after that if I have to work and if the project is good. But I've commited my life to the man I love and my new family. Turkish men are very traditional. Wives have to respect that.

Someone asked me if Yilmaz's family was with the Mafia.

I find that amusing! He does have security wherever he goes, but for crying out loud! His favorite movie is "Life is Beautiful," not even "The Godfather."

The leg of lamb arrived—braised to tenderness and bathed in its own juice. It is vibrant, succulent, spiced inspiringly, and with a medium-to-rich gravy. The lapu-lapu came next, pan fried, sprinkled with toasted brown almonds, and coated in a luscious nutty butter glaze. The mashed potatoes served with it was so good and so sinful, I dared not guess how much butter went into it.

We were determined to have the fresh baklava before Ruffa left for her next appointment. It was worth the wait.

"You know what's popular in Turkey?" Ruffa said. "Pistachio! Yilmaz and I love eating fresh pistachios instead of popcorn while watching DVDs at night."

And just before she did run off, we had Turkish coffee. She taught me a quaint custom: You drink the shot, turn the mini cup over while it's hot and place a ring on the bottom of the cup which is now on top. The metal of the ring acts as a conductor of heat and makes the cup cooler. You then turn the cup over to read and interpret the pattern of the coffee beans. It's a very popular Turkish tradition, Ruffa said, just like fortune-telling in the Philippines. She proceeded to examine the big, dark lump of coffee and predicted that I would meet a tall, dark, and handsome man.

Just then, Yilmaz called. Ruffa told him where we were, and gave the phone to me. I asked what he usually ate in Turkey. In a very serious tone, he replied: "Well, we eat mouse, cat, dog!" He is a funny man.

Yilmaz promised to try the food in Pasha next time he's in Manila.

Everybody should. Have some meze, kebabs and oh, yes, the fresh baklava. Try the Turkish coffee, too, have your fortune told and ask them to play Tarkan. You may never make it to Turkey, you can never be Ruffa, but Pasha will give you a pretty definitive taste of what it might feel like.

TURKISH MENU DICTIONARY

(In Turkish, c and s are pronounced ch and sh)

Appetizers

Ocacbasi—an open grill under an extractor hood; a domed sac is put over the charcoal for making paper bread

Meze dishes—appetizers

Borek or boregi—fried or baked filo pastry parcels with a savory filling, usually cheese, spinach, or meat

Dolma—stuffed veggies, usually with rice and pine kernels

Houmous—creamy paste of chickpeas, sesame seeds, oil, garlic, and lemon

Piyaz—white bean slal

Sac—literally, "village bread"; paper thin chewy

Tarartor—a bread garlic and walnut mixture

Mains courses/kebabs

Balik—fish

Kaburga—spare ribs

Kanat—chicken wings

Kofte—minced mixed w spices

Desserts

Baklava—filo pastry with pistachio nuts, almonds, or walnuts and covered in syrup; usually dry, but moist if fresh

Kemel pasha—small round cakes soaked in honey

Lokum—Turkish delight

Sutlac—rice pudding

Drinks

Ayran—refreshing yoghurt drink

Cay—tea

Raki—an aniseed flavored spirit

Turkish coffee (kahve)—a tiny cup half full of sediment, half full of powerfully strong, rich, bitter coffee. Offered without sugar, medium or sweet.

DOLMA-licious bell pepper, stuffed with ground lamb rice and herbs with tomato sauce and garlic yoghurt

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

What: Pasha

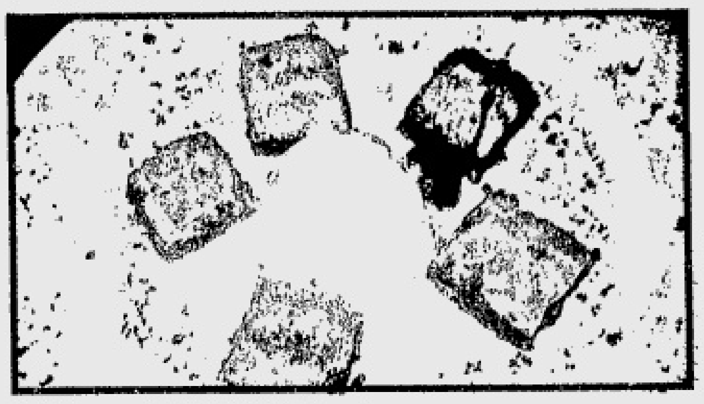
Where: 2nd Level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Makati

When: Everyday, lunch thru dinner; till 1 a.m. on weekends

How much : P500/head

Contact: Ilhan at 813-6184

(Questions, Comments & Suggestions: tina_tastes@yahoo.com)



SUPER sarap! BAKLA-VA? Baklava!

Time for another reunion of epic proportions!

Silverde Foundation Inc. and STAGE Craft INTERNATIONAL

in cooperation with

San Miguel BEER
BENEFICIAL-PNB LIFE Insurance Co., Inc.
STAGE RIGGERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

present

Silverde

RETURN TO THE GREEN

25th Anniversary Celebration of La Salle Green Hills Alumni Association

A Production of LSGH Batch 1979

Co-Celebrants: Batches '69, '74, '84, '89, '94 and '99

Silverde Foundation Inc Homecoming Committee

Chairman	Randy Santiago
Co-Chairman	Peter Banico
Treasurer / Sponsorships	Alfredo Reyes
PRO / Fellowship	Emer Guingon
Ways & Means	Raoul Romulo
Registration & Golf Project	Raymund Atendido
Secretariat	Susan, Joy, Ludy, Pemcy of LSGHAA
Tri-Media / Publicity	March Ventosa, Ricky Alegre, Chito Barreiro & Joel Navoa
Souvenir Magazine / Website	Noel Lantin, Mike dela Cruz
Outreach Programs	Elvis Llarena, MD, Neil Zaguirre, MD
Overseas Alumni	Noel Montano, Jake Salgado
Sports Events	Junel Baculi, Corky Fernandez
Food & Drinks	Tanny Syfu, Melo Gaba
Security & Traffic	Rocky Javier, Relly Antonio
Logistics	Bong Fernando
R-1 Big Bike Raffle	Julen Goitia
Silverde CD Project	Dalawampu't Limang Taon & Hail versions, composer/ arranger - Alvin Florentino. 'Wherever You Go' arrangement - Louie Ocampo. Sung by Carlo Orosa ('83) 'Home' arrangement - Roy del Valle ('88). Sung by Wency Cornejo ('84).
Show Director	Rowell L Santiago
Writers	Paolo Bustamante ('84), Emer Guingon
Video Directors	JV Noriega, Monchie Henares, Glenda & Mark

Programme

4:00 pm	Registration at the Entrance Lobby Election of Alumni Board Directors
5:00 pm	Anticipated Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Child Chapel
6:00 pm	Opening of Field Party Booths for Buffet Dinner
6:30 pm	LSGH Alumni Association Hour Opening Prayer - Bro Bernie Oca, FSC National Anthem Welcome Remarks Alumni Association Events Awarding of Golf & Bowling Tourney Winners Honoring of LSGHAA Past Presidents
7:30 pm	Parade of Colors
8:00 pm	SILVERDE SHOW

Featuring show-stopping performances from

Randy Santiago, Edu Manzano, Ogie Alcasid, Jackie Lou Blanco, Carlo Orosa, Rico Hizon, David Celdran, Mel Villena, Rage Band, Fursurkle, DJ Coki, Jaboom Twins, G-Girls, Go Girls, The Kundirana, Mr Suaverdes and the country's Comedy Concert Queen, along with other celebrity guests!

WIN! A Yamaha YZF-R1

Today, February 7, 2004 • 4 PM • La Salle Green Hills

For the benefit of LSGH Adult Night High School
To Register call LSGHAA 721-2729 or 721-2000

Special thanks to:

LSGH Staff and Alumni Office

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ruffa @ Pasha

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

From page G1

Music by Tarkan, Turkey's Ricky Martin, was playing in the restaurant. Ruffa's husband Yilmaz once gave me a Tarkan CD; the two guys are very good friends.

Turkish delight

Pasha was Ruffa's pick. Who better to judge, indeed, if the place was worthy of its Turkish-Mediterranean tag than this adopted "princess" of Turkey?

We started with a platter of meze dishes (appetizers)—a combination of hummus, taboulleh, falafel and borek served with pita bread. This was followed by dolma, piyaz and a refreshing Mediterranean Turkish salad in ultra light lemon dressing balanced with mild spices and parsley.

Most mezes, if not all, are vegetarian, and use a limitless array of the freshest raw ingredients, perfectly tossed together and bathed in first-press olive oil.

Ruffa exclaimed: "Yilmaz would love it here. His mom loves to cook, and often serves homemade meals including dolma, a special baby lamb dish that she makes in her oven."

Super!: So Yasmin (her Muslim name), tell me about your new life in Turkey.

Ruffa: It's so weird that you're interviewing me. Anyway, people may think I walk around with my head covered. I can if I want to, but it's against the law to go to school, or to work in goverment offices wearing the veils. Turkey is modern cosmopolitan, and most people prefer European fashion.

By 10 p.m., I have to be home. Yilmaz allows me to go out after that if I have to work and if the project is good. But I've commited my life to the man I love and my new family. Turkish men are very traditional. Wives have to respect that.

Someone asked me if Yilmaz's family was with the Mafia.

I find that amusing! He does have security wherever he goes, but for crying out loud! His favorite movie is "Life is Beautiful," not even "The Godfather."

The leg of lamb arrived—braised to tenderness and bathed in its own juice. It is vibrant, succulent, spiced inspiringly, and with a medium-to-rich gravy. The lapu-lapu came next, pan fried, sprinkled with toasted brown almonds, and coated in a luscious nutty butter glaze. The mashed potatoes served with it was so good and so sinful, I dared not guess how much butter went into it.

We were determined to have the fresh baklava before Ruffa left for her next appointment. It was worth the wait.

"You know what's popular in Turkey?" Ruffa said. "Pistachio! Yilmaz and I love eating fresh pistachios instead of popcorn while watching DVDs at night."

And just before she did run off, we had Turkish coffee. She taught me a quaint custom: You drink the shot, turn the mini cup over while it's hot and place a ring on the bottom of the cup which is now on top. The metal of the ring acts as a conductor of heat and makes the cup cooler. You then turn the cup over to read and interpret the pattern of the coffee beans. It's a very popular Turkish tradition, Ruffa said, just like fortune-telling in the Philippines. She proceeded to examine the big, dark lump of coffee and predicted that I would meet a tall, dark, and handsome man.

Just then, Yilmaz called. Ruffa told him where we were, and gave the phone to me. I asked what he usually ate in Turkey. In a very serious tone, he replied: "Well, we eat mouse, cat, dog!" He is a funny man.

Yilmaz promised to try the food in Pasha next time he's in Manila.

Everybody should. Have some meze, kebabs and oh, yes, the fresh baklava. Try the Turkish coffee, too, have your fortune told and ask them to play Tarkan. You may never make it to Turkey, you can never be Ruffa, but Pasha will give you a pretty definitive taste of what it might feel like.

TURKISH MENU DICTIONARY

(In Turkish, c and s are pronounced ch and sh)

Appetizers

Ocacbasi—an open grill under an extractor hood; a domed sac is put over the charcoal for making paper bread

Meze dishes—appetizers

Borek or boregi—fried or baked filo pastry parcels with a savory filling, usually cheese, spinach, or meat

Dolma—stuffed veggies, usually with rice and pine kernels

Houmous—creamy paste of chickpeas, sesame seeds, oil, garlic, and lemon

Piyaz—white bean slal

Sac—literally, "village bread"; paper thin chewy

Tarartor—a bread garlic and walnut mixture

Mains courses/kebabs

Balik—fish

Kaburga—spare ribs

Kanat—chicken wings

Kofte—minced mixed w spices

Desserts

Baklava—filo pastry with pistachio nuts, almonds, or walnuts and covered in syrup; usually dry, but moist if fresh

Kemel pasha—small round cakes soaked in honey

Lokum—Turkish delight

Sutlac—rice pudding

Drinks

Ayran—refreshing yoghurt drink

Cay—tea

Raki—an aniseed flavored spirit

Turkish coffee (kahve)—a tiny cup half full of sediment, half full of powerfully strong, rich, bitter coffee. Offered without sugar, medium or sweet.

What: Pasha

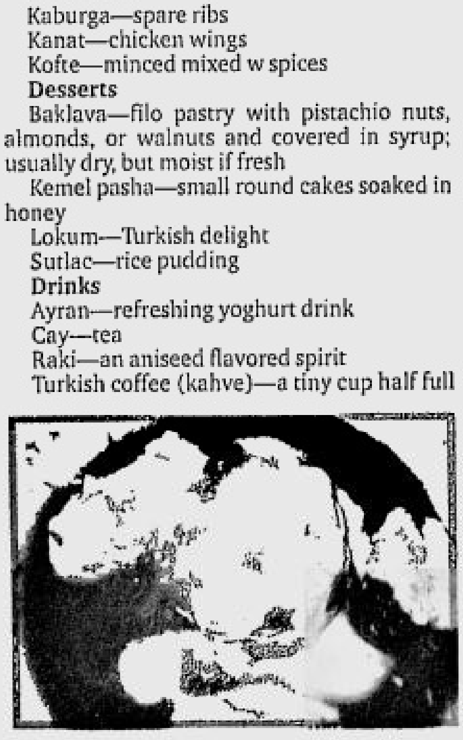
Where: 2nd Level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Makati

When: Everyday, lunch thru dinner; till 1 a.m. on weekends

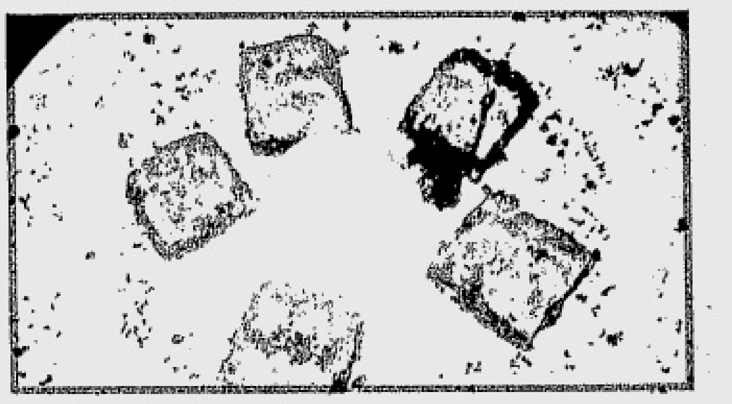
How much : P500/head

Contact: Ilhan at 813-6184

(Questions, Comments & Suggestions: tina_tastes@yahoo.com)



DOLMA-licious bell pepper, stuffed with ground lamb rice and herbs with tomato sauce and garlic yoghurt



SUPER sarap! BAKLA-VA? Baklava!

Time for another reunion of epic proportions!

Silverde Foundation Inc. and STAGEcraft INTERNATIONAL

in cooperation with

San Miguel Beer   BENEFICIAL-PNB LIFE Insurance Co., Inc.   STAGE RIGGERS   PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

present

Silverde

RETURN TO THE GREEN

25th Anniversary Celebration of La Salle Green Hills Alumni Association

A Production of LSGH Batch 1979

Co-Celebrants: Batches '69, '74, '84, '89, '94 and '99

Silverde Foundation Inc Homecoming Committee

Chairman	Randy Santiago
Co-Chairman	Peter Banico
Treasurer / Sponsorships	Alfredo Reyes
PRO / Fellowship	Emer Guingon
Ways & Means	Raoul Romulo
Registration & Golf Project	Raymund Atendido
Secretariat	Susan, Joy, Ludy, Pemcy of LSGHAA
Tri-Media / Publicity	March Ventosa, Ricky Alegre, Chito Barreiro & Joel Navoa
Souvenir Magazine / Website	Noel Lantin, Mike dela Cruz
Outreach Programs	Elvis Llarena, MD, Neil Zaguirre, MD
Overseas Alumni	Noel Montano, Jake Salgado
Sports Events	Junel Baculi, Corky Fernandez
Food & Drinks	Tanny Syfu, Melo Gaba
Security & Traffic	Rocky Javier, Relly Antonio
Logistics	Bong Fernando
R-1 Big Bike Raffle	Julen Goitia
Silverde CD Project	Dalawampu't Limang Taon & Hail versions, composer/ arranger - Alvin Florentino. 'Wherever You Go' arrangement - Louie Ocampo. Sung by Carlo Orosa ('83) 'Home' arrangement - Roy del Valle ('88). Sung by Wency Cornejo ('84).
Show Director	Rowell L Santiago
Writers	Paolo Bustamante ('84), Emer Guingon
Video Directors	JV Noriega, Monchie Henares, Glenda & Mark

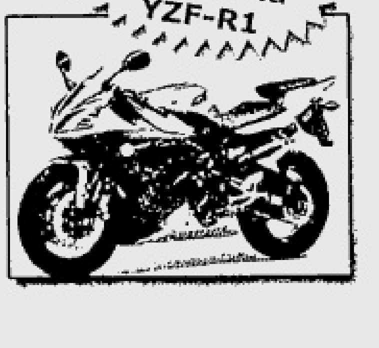
Programme

4:00 pm	Registration at the Entrance Lobby Election of Alumni Board Directors
5:00 pm	Anticipated Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Child Chapel
6:00 pm	Opening of Field Party Booths for Buffet Dinner
6:30 pm	LSGH Alumni Association Hour Opening Prayer - Bro Bernie Oca, FSC National Anthem Welcome Remarks Alumni Association Events Awarding of Golf & Bowling Tourney Winners Honoring of LSGHAA Past Presidents
7:30 pm	Parade of Colors
8:00 pm	SILVERDE SHOW

Featuring show-stopping performances from

Randy Santiago, Edu Manzano, Ogie Alcasid, Jackie Lou Blanco, Carlo Orosa, Rico Hizon, David Celdran, Mel Villena, Rage Band, Fursurkle, DJ Coki, Jaboom Twins, G-Girls, Go Girls, The Kundirana, Mr Suaverdes and the country's Comedy Concert Queen, along with other celebrity guests!

WIN! A Yamaha YZF-R1



Today, February 7, 2004 • 4 PM • La Salle Green Hills

For the benefit of LSGH Adult Night High School
To Register call LSGHAA 721-2729 or 721-2000

Special thanks to:

Mismo   VIVA!   gate   YKL   SMC   Dickies   YAMAHA
Lightscape   MARCUEE special events support services   sportshouse All the games you play!   DUTY FREE
92.3   THE MOST HIT MUSIC   MONSTER RADIO RX93.1   103.5   Jam   MAGIC 89.9   WAVE 89.1   LSGH Staff and Alumni Office

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Nomad love

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

> The master is the great new experience that calls from a distance, and the captive is committed to find it and live it, whether or not the significant other feels the same urge.

LIT cigarettes, reality TV, hemlines, David Beckham's hairstyle, cell phone models, one-hit wonders and the life span of Manila bars—such details of the modern world define "transience" for me. Yet, lately, I have noticed something else on the petri dish of global youth culture that describes the fleeting golden moment: the notion of love and relationships. That is, most particularly among the nomadic twentysomething set, those seized by a wanderlust so unshakeable, they have taken to chanting the mantra that serious relationships and wedding bells, like real estate taxes, can wait for now; for their one true love that is the world out there beckons.

Nomad, no cry

I've always believed that contentment is only for cows, and that it is inevitable for every person to eventually feel the need for change. It could be a leap from college life to working life, a new address, a shift in careers, or a move to another country. As human beings, we're constantly changing, however subtle or indefinable the flashes of transition are. As for me, you could say the past couple of years have been spent living life as a free agent, always open to the possibility that tomorrow would be a vast and thrilling new experience remarkably different from today. Usually it entails packing my bags for a trip out of the city and being away from home, alone or among others who share my state of wander.

On one night out, I found myself in a fellowship that I fondly dubbed "Council of Nomads," for it was a rare interaction of migratory friends mapping out plans on what destination to explore next. The pressing issue involved the coming Valentine weekend. I offered the laughable observation that none of us thought about going on a romantic date or (thank goodness) felt sorry that Cupid had apparently shot his arrows at everyone else but us this year. Perhaps Cupid was looking for us, except we're never in the same place long enough.

A question was thrown on the table: Is finding true love and keeping steady relationships possible among nomads? Or will the likes of us be damned in our twenties by a string of gray relationships, whose recollections are made possible only by revisiting landmarks of familiar faraway places where the affairs took life in? In that sense, some theorized that we could be susceptible to falling in love with the moment—including everything and everyone in it—forming a pastiche of instants that make up the tapestry of a life less ordinary.

One friend talked about backpacking around North Africa and meeting the most beautiful Maltese girl. They spent three glorious days exploring an exotic city together, before the inevitable separation. He claimed it was true love, in spite of the glaring fact that it was lived out within all of 72 hours. Another friend discussed his love problem du jour—that though he loved his girlfriend to death, the one thing he wanted most was to be "single" again. For he couldn't give her what she wanted, which was for him to stay in one place long enough to take the relationship to the next level. Nothing save for a deal with the devil could fulfill that wish, for this friend becomes too restless in rest, and is unsettled about settling. And how true it was—the next day, I tried phoning him and found out he left Manila to hit the waves somewhere north of Luzon, time frame unspecified and sans girlfriend in tow.

Master or slave?

A nomad is one who feels most settled while moving about, be it on the road, in a boat, or up in the skies. Sometimes I question whether a nomad can truly be called a "free" spirit when, in the real sense, those I consider nomads of my generation are very much slaves to the urge to be away. The master is the great new experience that calls from a distance, and the captive is committed to find it and live it, whether or not the significant other feels the same urge. It brings to mind the opening line that Leo di Caprio's character, Richard, mouths at the start of the movie, "The Beach": "Ours is a generation that circles the globe in search of something we've never felt before." There is almost a sense of desperation to seek out that "something," before a lapse of youthful energy signals that it's too late.

The unforgiving minute

I am not wont to give hard and fast rules about love of any sort, for I don't think anybody in this world can safely say he's mastered the art. Nor can anybody give answers that apply to everyone. As someone who's always been considered a hopeless romantic (sometimes to almost embarrassing degrees), I personally believe it is possible to fall in love for real, in spite of the unforgiving minute that circumscribes the transitional state. Now, is it being in love with the person or with the particular moment? I don't think a line should be drawn between the person and the moment—the person is the moment, and the moment the person. In fact, I find a certain poignancy in ignoring the limits of time and being unconcerned about what happens tomorrow, for all that matters is that instance that calls me to yully live it without regrets. Whether it lasts three weeks, three years, or three lifetimes is irrelevant, because the one thing I do know is that the feeling is real. Love can be painted in different shades, yet in whatever degree there remains an absurdly great feeling that brings forth a better understanding of the person, and of myself. The memories stay alive and constant, and carry me through the vicissitudes of life.

I am reminded of Che Guevara's nostalgia for his first Argentine paramour, Chichina, and about their love affair that fizzled because of his long absence while exploring South America. He wrote in his travel diary: "I thought of Chichina, now a distant, intoxicating dream; though the dream's ending leaves more honey than bitterness in my memory."

I Love Me

Being on the road constitutes a different form of love. I'm referring to self-love, but not in the narcissistic sense; rather, love that is understood in the context of self-value. During a recent conversation over coffee with a Mexican friend who was likewise on a year-long, self-imposed sabbatical from the corporate world, he imparted his belief that traveling alone was a self-love affair: "In the end, it's you who goes to bed with yourself every night." With self-love comes the need to expand horizons, in response to the very real fear of living content within a bubble. This, for me, is the essence of the nomadic outlook, seeing life as one long journey to the unfamiliar, in order to come closer to grasping your place, your destiny, in it.

From whatever form of exploration, be it devouring Lonely Planet books or collecting memories of sunsets in different parts of the globe, one always comes back as a changed person, one more worthy of sharing with another, time and place unknown.

(Feel free to e-mail me—but please don't ask me to write your term paper—at inca_orange@yahoo.com)

WANNA fork?

TechnoMarine
SPORT
TechnoMarine
ALPHA

WWW.TECHNOMARINE-PH.COM
TECHNOMARINE ENTERPRISES PHILIPPINES INC. TEL. (632) 7573975 TELEFAX (632) 7573976
TECHNOMARINE FLAGSHIP STORE, GROUND FLR. GREENBELT 3 AYALA CENTER MAKATI CITY TEL. 7573975 TELEFAX 7573976
TECHNOMARINE BOUTIQUE, 3RD FLOOR, BLDG. A SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY TEL. 6317491 TELEFAX 6374943
RAFAEL JEWELLERY 2ND LEVEL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, EDSA COR. SHAW, MANDALUYONG CITY TEL. 6363398 TELEFAX 6363399
RAFAEL JEWELLERY MEZZANINE LEVEL, MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MAKATI CITY TEL. 8138213 TELEFAX 8138501
MY DIAMOND 2ND FLOOR GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER MAKATI CITY TEL. 7571086
TIME PLUS 75 GRND. FLOOR GREENHILLS THEATRE MALL TEL. 7217868
WASHINGTON ROCKWELL R1 LEVEL, POWERPLANT MALL, MAKATI CITY TEL. 8982288

Star-Struckout

SWAK!

by Lex

> Show biz serves up new 'stars' like fast-food burgers.

IT TAKES exactly 27 seconds to transform a McDonald's hamburger patty from greenish-gray frozen mush to what we see in our sandwich—thanks to the fast-food system designed to give us, as quickly as possible, the greasy high-fat meals that we love.

The name of the game is efficiency, and in the show biz world, the same "assembly line" theory applies. Highlight of this week's events in local Tinseltown was undoubtedly the "Starstruck" grand finals that packed the Araneta Coliseum. After 14 weeks of heavy promotion, GMA 7 had another *artista* king and queen to name. It was a familiar scenario: a bunch of teens were lined up on a TV show assembly line. They competed against one another and, in the end, a "star was born."

I honestly don't know how long this trend can be sustained. The first of superstar factories created Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista who, I have to admit, were incredibly talented. Next came the controversial win of Erik Santos on ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million." While he has the giant network behind him, I personally think that his looks and demeanor are too effeminate to keep the market long-term. This week, Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado emerged victorious on "Starstruck." I was really betting on Mark, but as for Jennylyn—her *dedma* reaction upon being announced the winner seemed to confirm my initial impression that she is way too cold for my taste.

Easy money

My thoughts on the whole concept of get-rich-quick *artista* discovery shows are unsure at best. Seeing the parents weeping and jumping for joy when their child wins, I can't help but think, "Well that's another kid who is almost surely going to drop out of school." Ya, there's the promise of fame and fortune, but at what cost? Is it fair to burden a child with the responsibility of family breadwinner?

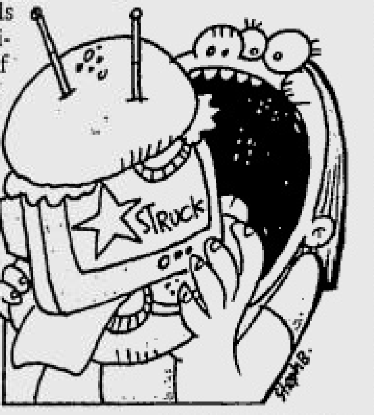


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Times are hard, and it looks like they're gonna get much harder really soon. To fight against this cancer, everyone's got to get off their asses and do their share. While we root for the underdogs on TV, it's absolutely imperative that we work hard everyday to stomp out poverty and crush disillusionment.

Trust me, 99.9 percent of us will not get rich quick, and if we even get rich at all, it will most probably be on account of determination and perseverance. Personally, as I go through life, just putting one foot in front of the other is my goal. By concentrating on a series of small victories, I hope to one day conquer my Everest. Meanwhile, I still nurture dreams of a better life and a better country. Dreaming is free, and so it doesn't hurt to dream big dreams, and hope to fly high. However, if the odds that I could become a star in any way with hardly any effort are, in fact, only one in a million, I'd better pack an extra parachute.

(For fan-mail, hate-mail, or any mail, you can reach me at swak@info.com.ph)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE